

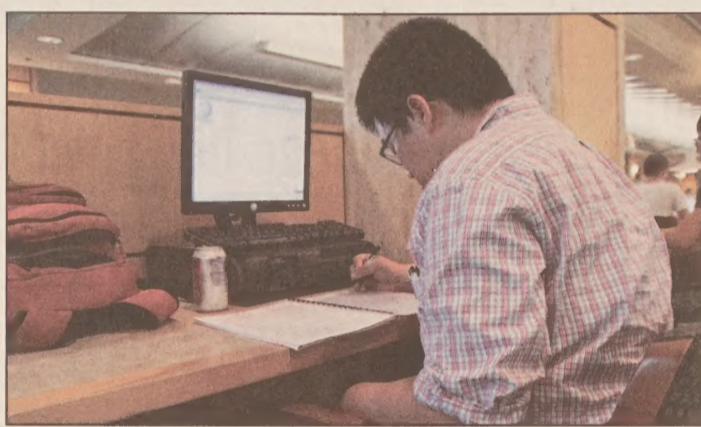
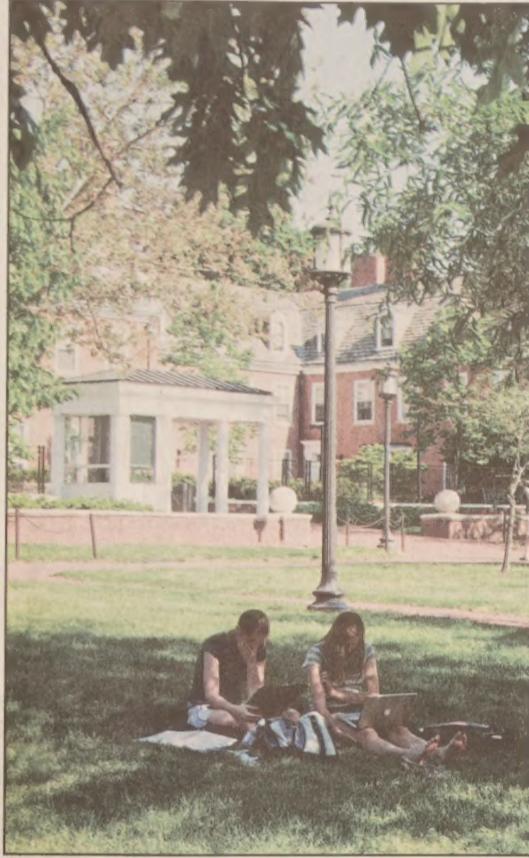
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Sun's out, fun's out



MORGAN YANG AND ANNA SALZMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS

As finals approach, students face the stress of a reduced reading period as well as the more common problems of procrastination and hectic schedules.

Professor elected to prestigious Academy

Owings discusses gubernatorial elections

By RIAN DAWSON
News & Features Editor

In challenging incumbent Governor Martin O'Malley as well as Republican opponent Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., Democrat George Owings looks to move his party away from the left and more toward the right, Owings said.

"I believe, and always believe, and grew up believing that the Democratic tent is large enough for all who associate themselves with the Democratic party to be under that tent," Owings said. "What I've seen under this administration and even to a certain extent in the prior Democratic administration is a leaning to the left more than I want to see."

Most recently, Owings was secretary of Veterans Affairs in O'Malley's cabinet. To his accolades, Owings also adds the fact that he has been on several committees with topics ranging from the environ-

ment to Rules and Executive Nominations. Owings was also Majority Whip for the Maryland House of Delegates for a decade.

In regards to challenging a member of his own party, Owings said he is aware of obstacles he will face embarking on this campaign.

"I'm coming from inside the party," Owings said. "I'm not like a member of the opposite or opposing party, either. I'm coming from inside my own party and you know, that doesn't bode well with a lot of the structured power-players of today. You're

just not supposed to do that — [the tent is so big] and all are welcome as long as you behave in that tent. I was never one for just watching, and I have a history of that in 17 years of the legislature."

In running, however, he wants to offer the party alternatives. The slogan under which he is campaigning is "A

better Maryland."

"I'm offering the Democratic Party, if nothing else, something besides 'opposites choice,'" Owings said. "If you want him [O'Malley], keep him, but you will have a choice in September. You might not want that choice, but at least you will have a choice. You'll

SEE OWINGS, PAGE A5

If you want him, keep him, but you will have a choice in September.

— George Owings

By RIAN DAWSON
News & Features Editor

While sitting in the library of Columbia University, preparing for a lecture later that evening, English professor Frances Ferguson checked her e-mail and was met with a surprise.

"I saw that a friend who teaches at the University of Virginia had sent me congratulations," Ferguson said. "So, before I heard officially from the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences], I heard from him. When I got back to Baltimore the next day and checked my mailbox there was a letter from the Academy."

Ferguson, along with 228 others, will be inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) at the formal ceremony this October in Cambridge, Mass. The 230-year-old institution is an "independent policy research center that conducts multi-disciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems," according to the organization's mission statement. Members elected to the various categories are considered leaders in their chosen field or academic discipline.

The honor, Ferguson said, is not something she anticipated. Though there were three Hopkins affiliates inducted into the AAAS Class of 2009, including

SEE FERGUSON, PAGE A6



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Francis Ferguson was nominated for the 2010 class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

By JEWEL EDWARDS-WALDO
Staff Writer

All Hopkins professors in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering will be required to switch from WebCT to Blackboard this upcoming fall.

Both WebCT and Blackboard are course management systems which allow professors to post online content for students to access.

They each provide tools that allow students to have online discussion boards, take quizzes and view their grades, among other features.

Amy Brusini, a course management training specialist at the University's Center for

Education Resources (CER), explained the switch.

"Blackboard actually bought WebCT and they are phasing out the product," Brusini said.

WebCT is also dated, according to Brian Cole, a senior information technology specialist with CER.

"Our version of WebCT was very old, nine or ten years old, which is extremely dated for software," he said.

"WebCT was acquired by Blackboard in 2006 and its support life-cycle was coming to an end. A university-wide task force was formed shortly after the acquisition to identify a successor to WebCT. The task force recommended licensing Blackboard for use in most divisions of the University. Implementa-

tion work for Blackboard began last year as a collaborative effort between IT@HU and instructional technology experts from various divisions such as those in the Center for Educational Resources (CER) at Homewood," wrote Steven Hellen, director of Academic Applications, Student Systems and Educational Technologies, in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

When asked if they had received many complaints about the effectiveness of WebCT, Brusini and Cole chuckled.

"A fair amount," Brusini said. "Mainly because people complained that WebCT lacked intuitiveness, it was very difficult to perform actions that should [have been] easy."

SEE BLACKBOARD, PAGE A5

WebCT to be replaced during fall semester

Program bought out by Blackboard, will be phased out of use

Class officer elections sees high turnout

By RIAN DAWSON
News & Features Editor

This year's Student Government Association (SGA) elections experienced an increase in participation over last year, SGA Vice-President Evan Lazerowitz said.

This year saw a 40 percent turnout among the student body.

"I'm very happy with the turnout," Lazerowitz said. "Forty percent turnout among eligible voters is higher than pretty much all of our peer institutions. It's a very high turnout. I'm pleased that there were no controversies; it was a clean election with lots of candidates. It couldn't have gone any better."

Lazerowitz partially attributes this to the rising participation from the freshman class, in addition to social networking sites like Facebook.

"The freshman turnout from the freshman class election now had remained relatively the same — that's a good sign that there's

a high level of participation," he said. "Usually, there's a drop-off between the two elections. I definitely think a lot of the use of Facebook has spurred the participation rate, as well as having more candidates."

With the increased number of candidates, Lazerowitz said it heightened the chances of more people having a personal connection with at least one of the candidates. This in turn mobilized more people to vote.

"The main way people are going to get motivated is if they know someone who's running, so the more candidates, the higher the turnout," he said.

About a week before the election, however, senior class president candidate and current junior class president Nick Gilson dropped out of the race.

He explained that his decision to drop out had nothing to do with any animosity toward the SGA. Rather, it was for personal

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WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Newly elected SGA class officers pose for a photo on the Decker Quad after the final meeting of the year on Tuesday. The SGA will reconvene at the beginning of next semester.

Faculty takes liberties with extra week

By LAURA MUTH
News & Features Editor

After record snowfalls in February caused a week of class cancellations, the University extended the spring semester by a week to make up for the lost time.

However, the way professors are using the last week has varied from class to class. While many professors are continuing to hold regular class, others are making adjustments.

Some canceled class altogether for the last week, while others decided to use the last few days for review.

"The way I see it, everyone is professionally bound to make up for the snow week," Writing Seminars professor Glenn Blake

said. "But on the other hand, it's not the students' fault we had a blizzard."

With that in mind, Blake sought to make his last class a mix of "serious work" and fun.

"We're watching a movie of the last novel we read in class and using that class time to talk about the book and how it translates to film," he said.

Richard Katz, a political science professor, also discussed his use of the final week of school.

"I used the last week basically as review," he said. "In the absence of snow and other factors, I ordinarily would only have had one day of class for review, but

I like not having class, but I think it is also important for some classes to get that last week in," he said.

Referring to her history class, she explained, "I think this particular class accomplished everything it set out to do. The units were not all closely related, so it was possible to cut one without a

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TFA interest on the rise across nation

By JIEUN PARK
For The News-Letter

Teach for America (TFA) has seen significant increase in student interest from Hopkins over the past few years, joining a similar trend across the country.

"This year, JHU is on pace to significantly increase the number of seniors it contributes to the 2010 Teach for America corps," Andrea Schwartz, a TFA recruiter, said.

Although TFA is still in the midst of selection process for the 2010 corps, Brendan Vandor, the campus campaign coordinator for TFA, estimates that "at least 15 [students from Hopkins] are doing it this year, which is more than last year."

Nine Hopkins students joined TFA in 2008 and 12 students from JHU joined last year according to the data provided by Schwartz.

Hopkins is not alone in this trend. This year, at 123 private and public colleges and universities over 5 percent of the senior class applied, according to Schwartz.

"[This year] there were a large number of applicants from highly selective schools, including nearly 12 percent of all seniors at Ivy League schools, seven percent at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and 6 percent at the University of California-Berkeley," Schwartz said.

"At Johns Hopkins this year applications were up by about 52 percent from last year's class. 7 percent of seniors applied from the class of 2010 and more than one in three applicants majored and/or minored in mathematics or science."

A general trend shows increasing number of applicants with a background in math, science, engineering and related disciplines.

"This year, more than one in five applicants majored and/or minored in mathematics, science, engineering or finance," Schwartz said.

It has been discovered that students are attracted to TFA for various reasons. Vandor pointed out "idealistic urges" of students.

"I think many people are drawn to TFA because it fulfills the idealistic urges of many graduates and gives them a chance to fight for social equality without having to leave the country like with the Peace Corps," Vandor said.

Schwartz agreed with Vandor that "TFA offers recent grads and professionals the opportunity to teach in low-income communities and address the greatest injustice impacting our country."

Another reason both Vandor and Schwartz mentioned is opportunity to gain leadership abilities and experience.

"We also have found that many leading employers value the leadership skills and experience that distinguish Teach For America corps members," Schwartz said.

"It also provides invaluable leadership and personal growth opportunities," Vandor said. "[TFA] is a great for resume building, and pays a pretty good salary — the same as any first

year teacher makes."

Schwartz elaborated on the methods of payment for members of TFA.

"Corps members are paid directly by the school districts for which they work and generally receive the same salaries and health benefits as other beginning teachers," Schwartz said.

Responses from Hopkins students going into TFA this year are highly focused on their ideals and the goals of TFA.

For Molly Shipman, the decision to go into TFA is closely related to her personal experience attending public schools.

"I'm from Baltimore City, and I attended Baltimore City public schools up until college," she explained.

"This experience touched me as I watched fellow classmates fail or drop out, and teachers looked the other way most of the time."

But some teachers seemed to really believe that inside of every child, there is potential that no environment can extinguish.

— MOLLY SHIPMAN,
SENIOR

that inside of every child, there is potential that no environment can extinguish.

Teach for America's goal is to close the gap in the quality of education you receive based on what part of the country you were fortunate — or unfortunate — enough to be born in, and my experiences made me feel strongly about closing the gap I lived through by being like the teachers who helped me get to where I am today."

It seems the goal of TFA and its two-year commitment offers an ideal way to fill the time gap for recent graduates who are searching for meaningful work before they go to graduate school.

"I decided to do TFA because I wanted to take gap time before medical school where I learned a lot and made a difference in a problem that has a solution.

I strongly believe that TFA (and programs like it) are the solution to the achievement gap. I am very proud to be part of an organization that is making such an impact," senior Samantha Connell said.

The time gap and the goal of TFA were important factors for fellow senior Arthika Chandramohan as well.

"I was really searching at the beginning of the year for opportunities that I thought would be most appropriate to what I thought I had achieved and learned here at Hopkins. I knew I wanted to take off a year before graduate school and realized . . . that teaching in an underperforming school district could be perfect for me," she said.

She acknowledged that "the two year commitment was a little daunting to wrap my head around."

But I think that going through the application process really transforms your understanding of and appreciation for the Teach for America mission," she said.

The students are anticipating positive effects from their TFA experience on their future.

"I think doing TFA will teach me a lot about working with people, hard work and how to be an excellent educator. I look forward

to the challenge and can't wait to start teaching this fall," Connell said.

Shipman also expected benefits for her future education and career.

"I think it will have a very positive impact on my future. I'll be learning an entirely new skill set and have the opportunity to get a masters degree in education while making money for grad school — not to mention the difference I hope to make in the lives of my students," she said.

"There are also great benefits like grants for graduate school and jobs either within Teach for America or using their connections after I am done."

She also explained that it would give her the opportunity to explore one potential career path without having to commit to it for the rest of her life.

"I feel like it will be a possible career path if I really enjoy teaching, and if not, I think the experience will be a great challenge and help me mature and improve my critical thinking and communication skills, which will be useful no matter what I do," she said.

Chandramohan anticipated "one of the most defining experiences of [her] life" as she expressed her hope and excitement about starting to teach.

"I honestly feel, coming out of Hopkins, that I've learned more about the world and how to interact with people and the responsibilities that life throws at you than about cell biology or biochemistry," she said.

"My hope for Teach for America is that I can learn how to communicate effectively with people of all ages, about all kinds of concerns and concepts," she explained.

"I don't think I can tell you with clarity how exactly TFA will affect my future, but I'm sure that this is at least half of what will make it an incredibly exciting experience. There's no way I can foresee the specifics of the experience, and for now, I'm happy just to be excited."

Among the students interviewed regarding their decision to join TFA, no one said the decision was related to the flagging economy.

Schwartz also discussed in greater depth how the TFA recruiting process works.

"Teach For America recruits on more than 350 college campuses, seeking seniors and recent graduates from all academic majors and backgrounds who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, perseverance, leadership and a commitment to expanding opportunity for children in low-income areas," she said.

The most obvious recruitment area is leaders of campus groups, but TFA also looks for applicants who demonstrate achievement in the classroom (like high GPA or academic honors/awards), in the community (impressive volunteer experience), and in the workplace," Vandor said.

He also mentioned, "We network with accepted seniors, other recruits, professors and key faculty to find the most qualified candidates. We also engage in marketing and classroom and student organization presentations."

According to Schwartz, "The leadership, determination and desire to contribute that JHU graduates exhibit make them excellent candidates for Teach For America's corps."



ANNA SALZMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

From left to right: Hopkins professor Steven David, Towson professor Omar Ali and Hopkins professor Joel Grossman.

College Independents host first group event

Newly-formed student group held panel discussion on future of politics in Washington

By ADAM ZELDIN

Staff Writer

Tuesday evening, the Johns Hopkins chapter of College Independents hosted their first campus event, a panel discussion in Mudd Hall featuring Towson University professor Omar Ali and Hopkins professors Joel Grossman and Steven David. The aim of the panel was to address the question "Is Washington broken?"

Each of the panelists spoke for about 10 minutes about their opinions on the current two-party system. President of College Independents Nolan DiFrancesco, a sophomore majoring in International Studies, introduced the speakers and the new organization.

Ali, a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee for a Unified Independent Party, started the panel discussion by outlining difficulties independents face in regard to both their voting and their running for office.

David's expertise is in foreign policy, and he spoke about the tendency for partisanship to "end at the water's edge."

Grossman discussed the political atmosphere of the expansion of democratic rights and its relation to the perception that Congress is broken.

DiFrancesco presented the discussion.

"Today, we ask the question, Is Washington broken? How do we fix the political system?" he said.

Ali introduced his mindset and the growing presence of independent voters.

"I am a professor of history, unlike the two professors here who are political scientists, so I like to tell stories," he began.

"I am less inclined towards the numbers, although the numbers seriously favor the fact that America is moving in a new direction, despite Washington holding much of the progress back," Ali said.

He discussed his view on the question present by DiFrancesco, establishing the belief that partisanship has become a problem in the U.S.

"What can we do to fix [the government]? I think there are some real concrete things that independents have been proposing, so I want to speak a little bit about what independents have been doing to address the excessive partisanship that we have in the United States of America."

"The solutions that are being proposed . . . for the last 20 years include structural political reforms. These are reforms that will help open up the process. Right now one of the critical issues on the table . . . is the issue of open primaries. Open primaries will allow millions of Americans into the process," Ali said.

"There's the issue of getting onto the ballot: ballot reform. If somebody wants to run for

president, you would have to get nearly 30 times the number of signatures than you would if you were a Democrat or Republican."

Ali emphasized that the restrictions placed on independents make wealth more of a necessity. "If we had a more open process, it wouldn't take a Ross Perot and all of his billions of dollars to have an impact of some kind in elections," he said.

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Various Homewood construction projects to continue over summer

Improvements to be made to the Brody Learning Commons, MSE Library, Jenkins Hall and Merrick Barn

By RIAN DAWSON &
SARAH SCHULMAN
Staff Writers

Construction will be going on throughout the summer at the Homewood campus, including the finishing touches on Gilman Hall and other renovations to various existing buildings, Director of Design and Construction Jody Latimer said. Ground will also be broken on the Brody Learning Commons.

Most of the projects have been scheduled for a while. Turn-around on the Brody Learning Commons, however, was very quick.

"It varies," Latimer said. "If you are asking about the large projects like Brody Learning Commons, the design has been going on for about a year now. And then the engineering job has been going on for several months — that is a pretty quick turn around time."

The expected duration of the various projects will vary depending on what is to be done. The construction on the Brody Learning Commons, for example, should take to years to complete, Latimer said. There will also be major construction on the Milton S. Eisenhower Library and Merrick Barn for the next two years.

In addition to the major constructions, minor projects, such as upgrades to on-campus restrooms, will be done this summer.

By the time students will return to school in the fall, Latimer expects some projects to be done. The process of construction, however, is an ongoing cycle. When one project is finished, another will have already started or will be about to be started.

"We always have projects going on," Latimer said. "Even if we finish up small projects over the summer, it is a continuum."

Latimer continually have various places under renovation.

When students return, the restrooms will mostly be completed. If it is less of an academic building, we may go into the fall due to the availability of materials."

Though a majority of the construction will start over the summer during summer session courses, Latimer said the noise level should not affect classes any more than those during the normal semester.

"It will be a learning curve for pedestrians and vehicular traffic," Latimer said.

The only major inconvenience she expects for summer session students is the restroom renovations.

"I don't see — other than the campus restroom project — projects [affecting] summer session, but students may have to go up or down a floor to use a bathroom," she said.

Jenkins Hall will also be undergoing renovation, which will last about three months. Latimer says, however, that it won't really affect anyone.

As to why certain projects will be started over the summer, Latimer says it is mostly due to convenience. Restroom renovations, for example, are easier to coordinate over the summer. But large-scale projects, like the Brody Learning Commons, would start at the end of an academic year.

"[With projects like Brody] we try to break ground at end of academic year so that it can be ready by the beginning of another academic year," Latimer said.

Reorganization jobs are starting now, or this summer, because that is when we will have the design completed and we want to get it done as soon as possible," he continued.

There will also be off-campus construction, specifically on the Homewood Apartments, which will be the new home of the Health and Wellness and Counseling centers, Latimer says.



Construction on Gilman Hall is projected to be completed this summer and will be followed by a series of construction projects elsewhere.

"Every year we spend a specific amount of money on ADA improvement," she said. "We are in close contact with Peggy (Hayeslip), who is the director of the ADA Compliance and Disability Services. That is how we determine and prioritize what projects should be addressed."

Despite the ongoing nature of the constructions, Latimer does not expect any classes to be displaced or affected. The only concern is noise, which Latimer says won't be too disruptive.

"We are having meetings with people around Learning Commons construction site to let them know what to expect," Latimer said. "There will be noise but we aren't shutting classrooms down, like we did in Gilman."

Reasons behind projects, Latimer says, vary. Some of the smaller upgrades, like renovations to various buildings, come at the request of faculty.

"Some of the projects come from requests of new faculty," she said. "Some, like the Shaffer lobby, are just upgrades that need to be done over time. Other projects are done for accessibility reasons, like the Shriver entrance renovations."

Lattimer also says that the Homewood campus becomes more handicap-accessible each year. Funded annually by a specific budget set for the task, improvements are made to outdated building elements that are no longer in accordance with the American Disability Association

(ADA) regulations. This summer, restrooms will be brought up to ADA code, as will ramps in Shriver Hall.

Lattimer says that the University is consulting a survey conducted on campus to help guide its updates. From there, Latimer says they will assess the progress and then further prioritize the ADA projects.

Counseling Center sees end-of-year increase in patients

By YANG BAI
For The News-Letter

As the semester draws near the reading period, which has been drastically shortened to two days this year, the Counseling Center reported a rise in the number of patients.

"The number of students coming to the Counseling Center have increased slightly since the end of Spring Break," Director of the Counseling Center Michael Mond said.

According to numbers provided to *The News-Letter* by the Counseling Center, the Center treated 245 students last week, an increase from 211 students six weeks ago. The number of emergencies rose as well, from two instances six weeks ago to 13 last week.

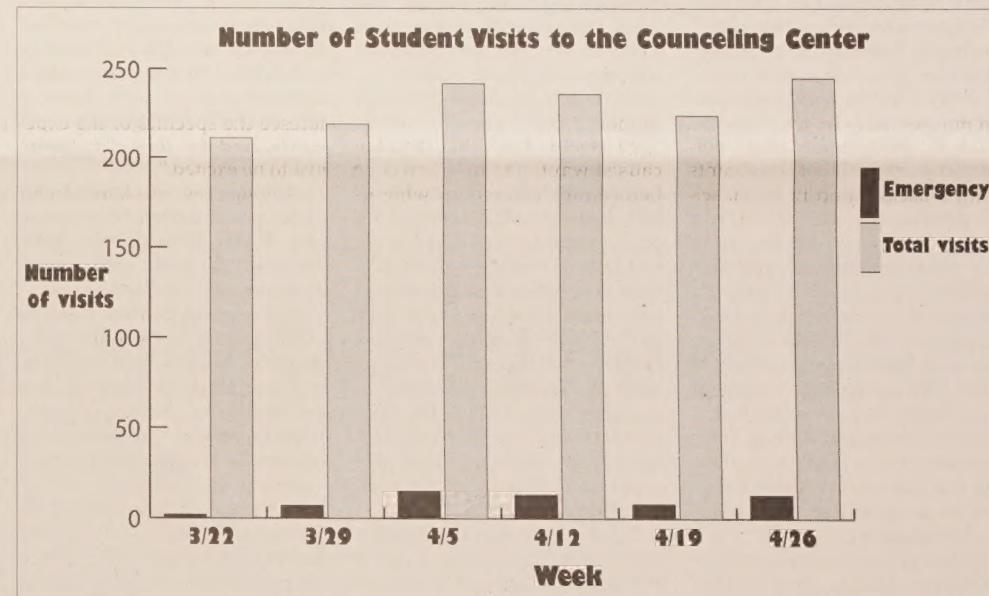
While Mond emphasized that these numbers did not necessarily indicate rising stress levels among students, he did guess that they might.

"I can't say all these students come to us because of stress. Obviously there are other reasons they come to us. Just because these numbers increase doesn't mean students are more stressed out. Stress is hard to measure," he said. "However, my hunch is that the recent increase is due to stress."

Several students attested to that hunch.

"As finals approach, the feeling of anxiety, pressure and dread is all too common among the students," sophomore Hannah Carney said.

"You can expect to see the caffeine line increase at Einstein's in the morning, Pura Vida during midday and Café Q at night," she continued. "But these aren't the only patterns seen around campus as stress levels increase towards



BY ANNE FABER

the end of school. All levels of the library become so packed it's likely that you'll lose 'your spot' if it's left empty. More students spend their entire nights at the library, with some claiming spots on the couch to nap once 4 a.m. rolls around."

For senior Amalia Londono, the stress that accompanies finals had special meaning.

"These last few weeks carry the thrill of coming to an end met by the discipline of clearing the last academic bar as an undergraduate," she said.

As for the reason stress levels are so high in the period leading up to the final exams, students pointed to procrastination as a major factor.

"Despite knowing the terrible all-nighters that [procrastination] causes and the pain of cramming for hours, the majority of us still indulge in it as it grants temporary and immediate satisfaction. Generally, the burden of obligation weighs heavier as deadlines approach," Carney said.

Sophomore Neel Pasricha also regarded procrastination an important cause in the rising stress levels.

"The thought of 'I can pull it off if I just study hard for the final' comes as a handy justification for avoiding consistent studying habits," he said. "That leads to serious stressing during the finals week."

On the other hand, senior Jonathan Walker viewed final period stress as a result of mismanagement on part of the individual to address it.

"People who fail to do the things that alleviate stress such

as getting out of the library or forgetting to sleep or forgetting to eat, that's your fault. Welcome to Hopkins, where you can study, sleep or socialize. Be warned: you may only choose two of the three."

Walker shows that one way to keep ahead of being too stressed is to not only keep a sense of humor but also a sense of pragmatism.

However, one source of stress for students is out of their hands. Several students noted an increase in stress levels due to the shortened reading period, which has been shortened to two days, compared to five days last year.

"[While a cramming] mentality may have worked during previous years, it is going to carry a higher level of intensity as this year's reading period has been shortened due to the snowstorm earlier this winter," Pasricha said.

"The shortened reading period has definitely been on my mind as I think about how to divide my time up between studying for my finals. It has forced me to begin studying during this last week of classes in an effort to make this 'reading period' less stressful," sophomore Karen Chan said.

In the face of such student reports regarding increased stress levels, the Counseling Center seeks to help those in need through a combination of therapies and medications.

According to Mond, the procedure for dealing with stress-related patients starts with an appointment, followed by a questionnaire aimed at isolating

the nature of the trouble, and finally a professional analysis of causes and solutions. Afterwards, students will be able to meet with a psychiatrist or a psychologist, depending on the need.

"[At such sessions,] we try to calm [the patients] first, and then come up with a strategy to overcome whatever is bothering them. For example, we will come up with strategies that will help patients better cope with the tests and tasks at hand," he said.

"If [patients] have trouble sleeping, we will provide them medication. Usually, however, medication is unnecessary. Normally, just expressing themselves [in our offices] can be encouraging," he continued.

Ironically, however, Mond expected the number of students coming to the Counseling Center to decline in the remainder of the semester.

"It is usually the case that when finals actually come around, less people come [to the Counseling Center]. It is because they're busy studying and don't have time to come to us," he said.

To such students worrying that a visit to the Counseling Center might disrupt their studying, Mond was quick to reassure.

"If you feel overwhelmed and you think you need help, even if you're busy with finals, come to the Counseling Center. It might seem like a waste of time, but will actually be saving time in the long run. We hope to help you when you need it."

CLASSIFIED AD

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES
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Contact ddgills11@gmail.com

Renovations on and off-campus are scheduled to continue through the summer.

GERMAN OM/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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GERMAN OM/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Renovations on

BME team advances to semifinals

By JEWEL EDWARDS-WALDO
Staff Writer

Most undergraduates would be apprehensive to take part in a competition in which most of the other participants possess degrees. Jan Lee, Nikhil Vadavkar and Matthew Dapas had no choice when they arrived in Houston, Texas for the annual Rice University Business Plan competition and discovered that they were the only undergraduates.

"We were the youngest team," said Lee, Biomedical Engineering major and one of the co-leaders of his design team. But they did not let age nor lack of experience hinder their efforts to excel in what is dubbed the richest and largest business plan competition in the world.

Like all biomedical engineering majors, Lee, Vadavkar, Dapas and the rest of their design team have had to engineer a device that solves a clinical problem, in their case a device that horizontally delivers eye medication for glaucoma patients who otherwise would waste hundreds of dollars on spilled eye drops. In addition to following all of the steps of the design process, Lee's team decided to take their project to another level by participating in business plan competitions.

"It's kind of logical step because even as a design team you have to think about what intellectual property is out there, what the market is like, because there's no point in engineering a device that could not one day end up in the hands of a company that produces it and gives it to patients. So we just wanted to take it a step further and pitch our idea in these business plan competitions to see what kind of feedback we would get," Dapas, a senior, explained.

The team began writing their business plan in January, marketing their device in such as way that it was appealing to all potential stakeholders.

"Our goal, and the way we pitched it, was to show that it would benefit everyone," Vadavkar said. "From patients to doctors to pharmaceutical companies to investors — [if] someone doesn't benefit, they are going to fight aggressively to keep things the way that they are."

The group had to submit an initial business plan to be considered for entry into the competition, which they submitted during spring break.

"We basically had a few pages to get someone really excited about our project," Vadavkar said.

"This was a huge hurdle," Lee said. "Out of an initial group of 425 teams, 42 were invited to Houston to Rice University."

This was no ordinary business plan competition.

"There were over 250 judges. These are people who are pulled from NASA, the industry. They do this for a living, whereas other judges in other competitions are normally professors and PhDs," Dapas said.

The biomedical engineering program here at Hopkins paid for one plane ticket and hotel room for the team "because they realized the importance of the competition and the recognition it would bring to the program and the university," Lee said.

It was not until they arrived to the competition on a Thursday in April that the group learned that they were the youngest team.

QX. We had a personal connection with this awesome animator and he was able to get us a great animation by the next day," Lee said.

"We also want to stress that we were not alone in Houston. There were a lot of members of our design team that stayed in Baltimore, but they were extremely supportive," Vadavkar added.

All of their hard work paid off. After their first real presentation the next day, Lee's team received the best feedback that any team could possibly hear. "There was a moment of silence, and then one of the judges said, 'I have glaucoma. Where can I get one of these?'" Lee said.

"One of the best things about the competition was that the judges were personally pulling for us. We thought that maybe they were so supportive because we were doing poorly, but apparently this was not the case. They were actually giving us pointers for the next round," he said.

Ultimately, Lee and his design team advanced to the semifinals, beating out five other companies in their track. "We held our own with these companies that had thousands of dollars in funding and whole business companies supporting them with about a thousand dollars into our project and a thousand dollars in travel costs."

"We were joking around and came up with a pitch: 'We did this with \$2,000, what do you think we could do with your investment money?'" Vadavkar said.

Considering the fact that the winning team had multiple team members possessing MDs, PhDs, and a combination of both, Lee and his team considered themselves extremely successful to have made it to the competition, much less the semifinals.

The team plans to continue to develop their idea for horizontal delivery of glaucoma medication, taking all of the firsthand advice they received from judges to improve upon their product.

The three team members have one major quip with Hopkins that they would like to have addressed in the near future.

"Hopkins has a great advantage here in that it's a wonderful research university. We think that if they just put a little more effort into emphasizing entrepreneurship to students, it would pay off immensely," Vadavkar said.

Lee wanted to stress that although he and his team were successful, it was not because they are exceptionally brilliant, but because they put forth the effort and tried. "Everyone can do this; it's within your grasp. It's just a matter of reaching out and trying."



COURTESY OF QING XIANG-YEE

Back row from left to right: Nikhil Vadavkar, Mary O'Grady, Marlene Shi, Jan Lee and Qing Xiang Yee. Front row from left to right: Christopher Courville, Eugene Lee, Ian Lee and Matt Dapas.

"Most other [business plan] competitions are for collegiate students. And that is what we expected this competition to be like. Then when we go there, we realized that we were far and away the youngest competitors. This was very real, and there was a lot at stake," Dapas said.

With over a million dollars in funding money being given away, there was indeed a lot at stake.

"There were schools like Carnegie Mellon, Harvard — and these are MBA schools, not undergraduate," Lee said.

The team had a rough start on their first day as they underwent a feedback round in which they pitched their product to judges that they all said "did not go so well." But they refused to be discouraged and, taking the constructive criticism they received, completely revamped their presentation in their hotel room on their first night in Houston.

"There were evening parties, but we didn't go to any of those. We really drilled the presentation that night, and focused on getting the content right, and the mechanics," Vadavkar said.

"We really reworked the exact phrases we were using, what are the ideas we were trying to get across. Our biggest motivation was that we knew we were representing Hopkins. We are the only Hopkins team that got into this competition. We knew that we had to show that we are exceptional."

"That's why the second morning we woke up at 7:30 AM to continue to drill our presentation," Vadavkar said.

"Normally any of the other competitors would have had to outsource to a professional animation company to get an animation. We have a teammate who we call

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NEWS & FEATURES

Owings looks to oppose O'Malley this fall

OWINGS, FROM A1
have something other than being force-fed the party's candidate of choice. There are those out there who feel the same as I do. They just don't like the direction the state is taking."

Owings is passionate about several issues. Among those which make up his platform are state employees, making the bureaucracy function effectively and efficiently, and small businesses.

The governor's cabinet, Owings said, has more members than that of the president of the United States.

"There [are], in state government, a number of agencies with secretaries," Owings said. "We have more cabinet secretaries than the president of the U.S. There are several that overlap and that intertwine."

To remedy this, Owings recommends a restructuring, combining certain positions and eliminating others.

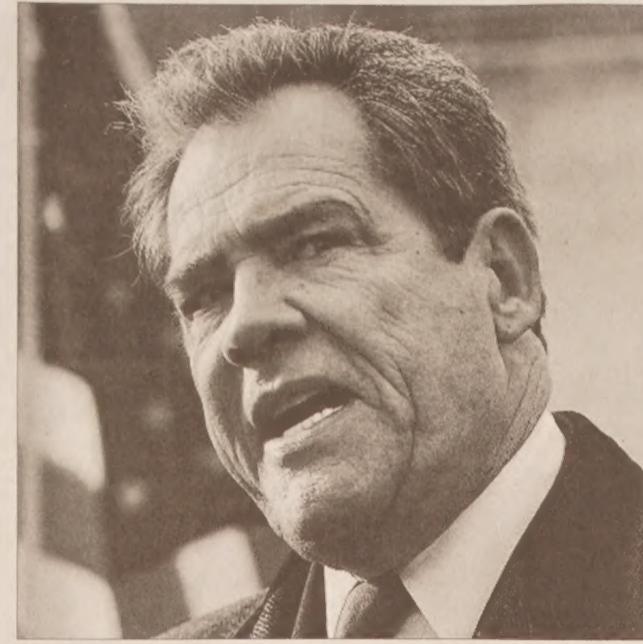
"It would be painful for some, but it would be one time," Owings said.

One of Owings' greatest criticisms of O'Malley has been his outside contracting for government workers. Rather than look in the state, Owings said O'Malley went to Kansas to find a replacement for chairman of the Maryland State Lottery Buddy, and to Pennsylvania to hire a deputy chief of staff.

"He went outside of the state to recruit these people," Owings said. "I cannot believe that, in the workforce of Maryland, there's not somebody who could have filled those two positions."

An anecdote, Owings says, aptly describes his campaign's objective. This anecdote centers around a photo taken a few weeks ago in which O'Malley was pictured helping to install a solar panel in Howard County. The crux of the anecdote, Owings said, is the origin of the solar panel.

"Up the road from that [location], by less than 30 miles, is a plant: BPG Solar," Owings said. "It's been around in Maryland



COURTESY OF THE OWINGS CAMPAIGN

George Owings will offer another option for Maryland Democrats on the ballot for governor, as he is opposing incumbent and fellow Democrat Martin O'Malley.

for 70 years. It just shut down. It closed up and all 320 employees are out of work. The panel the government helped install for a photo op was not made in this state. It was not even made in this country."

The Owings campaign found out four possible options of the solar panel, one of which was China. The fact that a solar panel factory had just closed its doors and O'Malley installed a foreign-made panel disquieted Owings.

"I don't react usually with disdain, but when I see this guy putting a solar panel on [which] wasn't even made in the country, much less the state — in the shadow of a company that's been here for 70 years, whose panels are made in this country — I get just a little upset," he said. "Three hundred and twenty people are out of work."

Pollution in the Chesapeake Bay is also an issue that concerns Owings.

"The Bay itself is capable of regenerating, but only to the extent that there is a constant vigil

on that which is dumped into it," Owings said.

One of the questions that precipitated from this issue is who to go after first.

"Do you go after the chicken farmers on the Eastern Shore? Do you go after the watermen for overharvesting? Do you go after developers who are putting more people in the watershed?" Owings said.

For a policy about the Chesapeake to be effective, Owings said there needs to be structure and comprehension. When money is allocated to the Bay, where it goes is of main concern.

"Where did you put the money? That's what you never hear," he said.

Despite his experience in the legislature, Owings' name was not readily recognizable by some Hopkins students.

Baltimore County native and Hopkins sophomore Claire Snodgrass, an avid watcher of the local news, was unaware of Owings' candidacy.

"I personally watch the local

news and read the local news online, and I see the updates and the campaigns, and I have never seen his name before," Snodgrass said. "I guess that he should pursue some of those media outlets and get some PR going, because he's lacking right now."

Hopkins students and Maryland residents also voiced certain issues with which they are most concerned.

Like Owings, Snodgrass agrees that raising taxes, especially during a recession, is a poor decision.

"For me, personally, government spending and tax cuts, that's what's important to me as a tax payer in the state of Maryland," Snodgrass said. For junior Greg Rossman, pollution in the Chesapeake and government corruption are his biggest concerns, both things about which Owings is passionate. A major emphasis for Rossman, however, is on national issues.

"I am more focused on national issues, even though I am from Maryland and care about my state," Rossman said. "I think that the issues at the forefront for me, in terms of state politics, are indeed the Chesapeake Bay issues and environmental issues, especially with the new talks about doing more exploration off the coast. I think that, otherwise, I am a little more focused on Baltimore City corruption — and perhaps I might be worried about whether O'Malley is in any way slightly corrupt or not."

Though students are not familiar with Owings, one of Owings' campaign consultants said Owings was doing considerable outreach in minority-majority areas. He said Owings even set up his headquarters in Prince George's County, one of the state's largest minority-majority counties.

According to this consultant, he said Owings is the only candidate doing outreach to minority communities in Montgomery County, Maryland's largest county, as well as outreach to the Jewish, black and Muslim communities.

COURTESY OF WWW.WEBCT.JHU.EDU
The nearly decade-old software for the online program WebCT is considered out of date, another factor contributing to the upgrade to Blackboard.

Hopkins to switch to Blackboard this fall

BLACKBOARD, FROM A1

One of the primary complaints received about WebCT from students was that course sites could only be accessed for two years after they ended.

"We hope to address this in Blackboard by leveraging its more sophisticated content system which permits faculty to develop a library of content which can be referenced in course sites without making a new copy of the content for each semester."

This will reduce storage requirements per course to a point that should permit courses to remain accessible for four years," Hellen wrote.

According to Hellen, most of the functions of WebCT, including tools for discussion, assignments and grading will look different and the user interface will be dramatically improved.

"There is extensive use of Web 2.0, or interactive, facilities. From focus groups during the product selection process [to] anecdotal evidence during the current pilot, the changes are

viewed positively — easier to understand and with more features," he wrote.

Most professors' reactions to the new system were positive, according to Brusini, despite the fact that few professors have had an opportunity preview Blackboard.

"Most people are looking forward to the changes because they are so easy and the new program is so modern," he said.

"I can't compare the two because I have not used Blackboard, but I really like WebCT," said Uma Saini, a professor of Hindi, Sanskrit, and ESL. "I would prefer to stay with WebCT because it is what I am used to, but I really have no choice, and I do not really have a strong preference either way."

Hellen wrote that the spring pilot of Blackboard was "extremely successful because of the outstanding team dedicated to it, including Brusini, Cole, as well as Jason Schnell (project manager), Ian Goh and Charles Goldman from IT@JHU."

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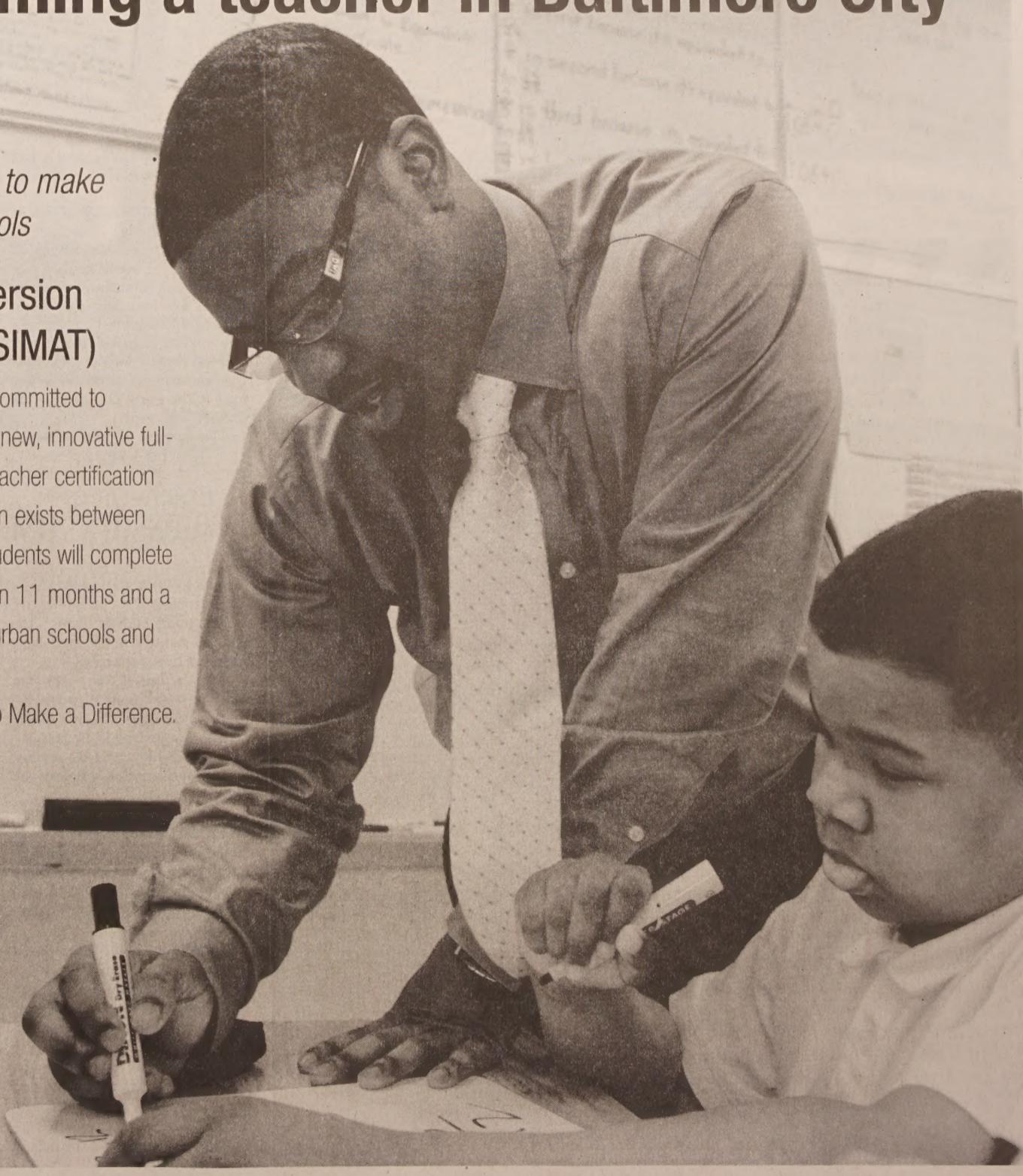
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SGA class elections experience growth in student participation

SGA, FROM A1
concerns regarding the time commitment.

This coming year, Gilson will be interning for Teach for America as their campus intern. Because of the commitment this would place on him, Gilson felt he was unable to divide his time between being president and the internship while still maintaining the integrity of his work.

"I realized if I got both president and this internship, I wouldn't be able to do both as well as I would like," Gilson said.

"I felt it was unfair of me to do that to the people of the internship should I get it and the class."

Gilson's withdrawal from candidacy left the spot uncontested for president-elect Josh Ayal.

During the nomination process, Ayal said he was in contact with Gilson throughout. When Gilson's plans for next year became finalized, Gilson said he deferred to Ayal's candidacy.

"After my experience with SGA as a sophomore I was really excited about getting involved, and thought I could do that better as a class president," Ayal said.

That said, I know Nick to be incredibly intelligent, competent and qualified. After speaking with him throughout the nomination process and letting him know my intentions, he relayed to me that he has a lot on his plate for senior year and felt comfortable deferring to my candidacy."

As many of the other candidates, Ayal is excited for next year's senior team and is confident in its abilities.

"I think you'd be hard pressed to pick a more competent, qualified group than the seniors

elected, and I think we have the potential to make this next year great not only for Hopkins seniors but for the university as a whole," Ayal said.

"I look forward to working with the newly elected senators, Jason Heiserman [the SGA's faculty advisor] and the SGA as a whole to accomplish a wide array of goals and improve the quality of life at Johns Hopkins."

Lazerowitz, like the newly elected class officers, believe the SGA will do well next year.

"I think everyone elected is going to do a great job," he said. "They're all motivated and ready to work. The executive board has a good deal of experience in this year and past years."

In addition, Lazerowitz said the SGA has a strong platform on which it stands.

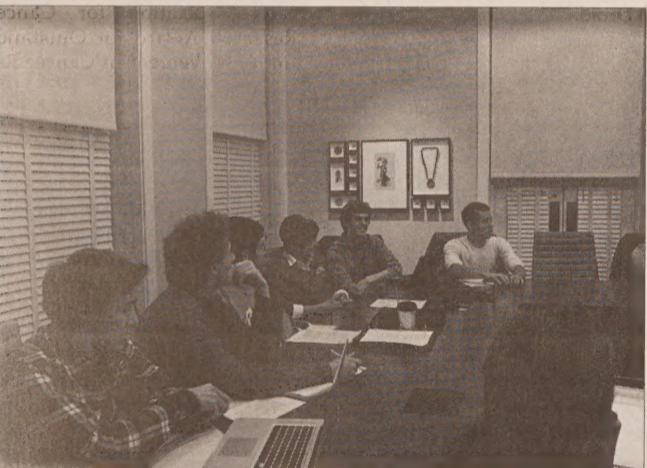
"They've got a very solid footing to work with," Lazerowitz said.

They have a lot of priorities to address both big and small, particularly with continuing pressing for a student union. I know a lot of candidates ran with a student union on their platform. There are a lot of issues to be addressed, I think the main one is really improving student life. I think it has been one of our primary goals, and it will continue to be."

In addition to Ayal, freshman Alexandra Larsen and sophomore Ardi Mendoza were elected presidents of their respective classes.

The last meeting of the school year was Tuesday, and the group will not reconvene until next term.

A full list of senators for each graduating class can be found on the SGA website, in *The News-Letter* archives. Another election will be held in the fall for officers of the incoming class of 2014.



FILE PHOTO

The new SGA officers attended the final SGA meeting of the year on Tuesday.

SECURITY ALERTS

On-Campus Crime

Krieger Hall, basement floor, lab 42
On April 29 between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

A cell phone and J-Card belonging to a sophomore student were taken from a lab table. Investigation continuing.

MSE Library Electronic Resources Center (M-Level)

On April 29 between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Six dollars in cash were taken from a wallet left unattended at a table while the owner was at the printer. Investigation continuing.

Mergenthaler Hall, computer lab, fourth floor
On May 1 between 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

A cloth bag with two laptops inside belonging to a graduate student was taken from underneath a work station. A computer monitor and keyboard belonging to the economics department was also taken. Investigation continuing.

Off-Campus Crime

2900 Blk of St. Paul St.

On April 29 at 10:15 p.m.

Two graduate students observed a gloved hand reaching in through the second story back window of their residence. The suspect fell from the window when one of the students yelled. A preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect was injured in the fall, but a canvas of the area yielded negative results. Investigation continuing.

1100 Blk E. 33rd St., north side

On May 3 at 5:10 p.m.

A JHU employee left work and encountered two males on the way to the bus stop. The two males came up behind him, struck him in the back of the head with their fists and ran eastbound on 33rd. The employee was not able to give a description of the suspects and was not injured. Baltimore Police responded. Investigation continuing.

English professor to be Academy member

FERGUSON, FROM A1

University President Ronald Daniels, Ferguson is the only current Hopkins affiliate to be inducted in this year's class.

"I was of course, very pleased," she said.

"One of the things that's very nice about election to the Academy is that you don't know if there's any possibility of it happening. It does take you completely by surprise. It's kind of like winning the lottery."

Ferguson's area of interest is eighteenth and nineteenth century literature and literary theory.

She counts, among her favorite books, *Clarissa* by Samuel Richardson and Christina Stead's *The Man Who Loved Children*. Among more contemporary authors, she said she is drawn to Ian McEwan and Peter Taylor.

A graduate of Wellesley College, Ferguson said she did her graduate work at Yale University and then came to Hopkins.

After a brief stint, however, she moved to the University of California—Berkeley, where she was offered tenure. A decade later, Ferguson came back to Hopkins.

In her years at Hopkins, Ferguson said she could not think of an anecdote from her teaching.

She did, however, share a story in which she was confused with another person of the same name.

"When I was in my very first year of teaching, I was teaching a very large lecture course," Ferguson said.

"There was a terrific student in the class who stopped me on the quad one day and said, 'I had no idea how productive you have been.' And it turned out that she was working in the library and was shelving books and it turned out that she had confused me with a famous literary critic named Francis Ferguson whose first name was spelled with and I and whose last name was spelled with two s's; He was a very fine and important literary critic who had written on Aristotle's 'Poetics,' among other things. And he had written various things that had been published before I was born, and I was being given credit for it."

In 2004, Ferguson left Hopkins once again.

Instead of the West Coast, however, she resettled in the Midwest, at the University of Chicago.

"I had accepted that job thinking that would be the job I retired from," Ferguson said.

"I ended up deciding I needed to come back to Hopkins. There were a lot of things I very much liked about the University



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

In addition to teaching undergraduate classes, Ferguson is the adviser for several graduate students working on their dissertations.

of Chicago, but I felt as though I understood how Hopkins worked in a way that I didn't understand how the University of Chicago worked."

Upon returning to Hopkins in 2005, Ferguson acted

as the Director of Graduate Studies until 2009. During her time, she has been the adviser to several dissertations. Graduate student Stephen Hershinow is one of her advisees.

"I came to Hopkins in 2006, excited about the program but ecstatic about working with Prof. Ferguson," Hershinow said.

"My personal statement had culminated in a very earnest account of why I absolutely had to work with her. Professor Ferguson writes the kind of criticism that you can't ignore and that you want to return to again and again.

Her essays on literature have helped me develop the way I read, and her work on literary theory has changed, and is still changing, the way I think."

Ferguson said that in advising, a professor isn't trying to tell students what to write, but how to write.

"One of the things that you're constantly doing when you're trying to advise students, is to be a sounding board so that you say to them, 'that thing you just said is fabulous and that basic way of putting your project really makes it come clear' and helping them prune out the distractions that it's very easy to get into at the early stages of your project," she said.

The amount of public discuss-

tion facilitated by the English department and its graduate students, Ferguson said, is something of which she is particularly proud.

"One thing I've been very

gratified by is that the gradu-

ate students in the English

department are

serious about

engaging in

general discus-

sion," Ferguson said. "We have

lots of public

seminars, and

lots of public

lectures."

Currently, Ferguson teach-

es a small seminar course en-

titled "A Literary Decade: Britain

between 1789 and 1799."

Junior Maria Braileanu de-

scribed the class as one in which

Ferguson offers insight to stu-

dents, but does not force her

opinion on students.

"She listens to our opinions

and questions, gives her perspec-

tive, and then allows us to follow

up," Braileanu said.

"When she tells us her inter-

pretation she is really good about

it."

She provides great examples

and arguments; her thoughts are

very insightful. At the same time,

she does not intimidate or scare

off students."

This semester is not Braileanu's first time working with Fer-

guson.

The first class she took that

was taught by Ferguson was a

large lecture-style 200-level

course.

Though it was a large course,

Braileanu said it was easy to ap-

proach the professor.

"A year had passed between

those two classes and even

though we would nod when we

passed each other, I wasn't sure

if she would truly recognize me,"

Braileanu said.

"The first day of class she re-

membered my name. I think that

is really telling about her. She

takes the time to make students

feel more than just another face

among the masses."

Another of Ferguson's stu-

dents, Junior Colin Azariah-Kribbs said she was not sur-

prised to hear about Ferguson's

election to the Academy because

of her body of work and achieve-

ment.

"She has done such a lot of

work not only in the field of ro-

mantic criticism, but with diverse

topics as well, such as eighteenth

century philosophy," Azariah-

Kribbs said.

"I'm not surprised, but I'm

overjoyed. It's really wonderful

to see someone who really de-

serves some credit to actually get

it."

Hershinow, too, was pleased

to hear about Ferguson's elec-

tion.

"I was so pleased to hear

about Professor Ferguson's elec-

tion to the Academy of Arts and

Sciences, alongside such illustri-

ous names as Steve Martin and

the Archbishop of Canterbury,"

she said.

"I'm always happy to see

scholarship that matters to me

recognized on a grander scale

NEWS & FEATURES

City News in Brief

City to consider raising sewer and water rates by nine percent

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works is considering a plan to raise water and sewer rates by nine percent.

The rate increase is meant to cover the cost of things such as replacing infrastructure, among other needs.

The proposal, which was discussed at yesterday's meeting of the City Board of Estimates, would increase the water and sewer bills of the average family of four by \$81. Because Baltimore City supplies parts of Howard, Anne Arundel, Carroll and Baltimore Counties with water, the rate increase would affect customers there as well.

Baltimore County does set its own rates, however.

In 2009 the water and sewer rates also increased by nine percent.

They increased by four percent in 2008, although over the last decade most increases have been around nine percent.

According to the Department of Public Works more than 95 percent of the city's water mains are more than 65 years old.

During the last five years, the city had to respond to 5,762 water main breaks.

—Peter Sicher

Democrat Kieffer Mitchell to run for seat in Maryland House

Kieffer J. Mitchell Jr., who ran unsuccessfully against Sheila Dixon in 2007 for the Democratic mayoral primary, has announced that he is running for a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates.

Mitchell, who served on the City Council for 12 years before running against Dixon, comes from a family of politicians and public servants.

His great uncle was Parren J. Mitchell, Maryland's first African-American member of Congress, and his grandfather was Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., a leader in the civil rights movement.

Since losing to Dixon Mitchell has been working for Wachovia as a small business lender, and has also started a consulting business.

Mitchell will be entering a

crowded field in the Democratic primary. Also running are the districts three incumbents, Keith E. Haynes, Ruth M. Kirk and Melvin L. Stukes, as well as Matt Charvat, who works in the Baltimore Human Resources Department.

—Peter Sicher

Proposed tax on bottled beverage moves towards final vote

On Monday, a proposed tax on bottled beverages was approved by the Taxation and Finance Committee of Baltimore City Council, moving it towards a final vote.

It is estimated that the four cent tax would generate \$11 million for the city each year.

It is the largest piece of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's proposed \$50 million package of taxes and fees to address the city's budget crisis.

Although she voted for the bill, the chair of the committee, Helen Holton, said she had not reached a decision on the final vote.

On the other hand, Councilman Bill Henry, who was the only member of the committee to vote against the bill said he did not support it because he didn't think they should be rushing this vote.

The measure is opposed by beverage bottlers and distributors and store owners.

—Peter Sicher

Baltimore hosts motivational seminar in First Mariner Arena

This Tuesday, a touring motivational business seminar called Get Motivated that featured Michael Phelps, Colin Powell, and Sarah Palin as speakers came to Baltimore's First Mariner Arena.

Phelps discussed the importance of goal-setting. Palin, who attended via satellite, discussed balancing personal and professional priorities as well as how to overcome problems with creative solutions.

Get Motivated started running seminars in 1987 in Florida. The seminar was mostly attended by office workers, business owners, and single working moms.

—Sarah Tan

City Council moves towards hearing bills to improve bicycling safety

This Thursday, City Council will be moving to consider a number of bills that would make the City safer for cyclists.

The bill's main sponsor is Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, who hopes to address the safety issue storm grates post to bikers, making bike racks more prevalent around the city, and ticketing cars that are parked in bike lanes.

—Peter Sicher

She hopes that these bills will help improve communication between bicyclists and police.

Former Mayor Sheila Dixon was a large proponent of cycling bills.

Bicycle enthusiasts hope that they will be able to garner the same support from Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

—Sarah Tan

City agrees to host open wheel Indy Car Racing in the Inner Harbor

On Wednesday May 4, city officials agreed to host open wheel Indy car racing in the downtown Baltimore.

The Indy Racing league will host an event downtown in August of 2011. Baltimore Racing Development plans to use a series of streets surrounding the Inner Harbor for the race.

City officials claim that streets will not be shut down in the preparation process.

The city expects to make \$250 million in ticket sales, hotels and restaurants associated with events.

Direct tax revenues from the project are expected to total \$11 million.

—Omar Qureshi

Hair Salon owner shot in Northeast Baltimore

Tuesday morning, 32 year old salon owner Paulette Dawson in Northeast Baltimore was shot and robbed while opening her store.

The event occurred in a shopping center in the 6600 block of Beaird Rd.

She was treated at Johns Hopkins Hospital for a wound to the head. She is the owner of Blessed Productions salon.

Police investigation continuing.

—Sarah Tan



Baltimore is considering a four cent tax on bottled beverages. This would bring in extra revenue for the city.

College News in Brief

UNC announces new initiative to stop burning coal in 10 years

In an effort to reduce the university's carbon footprint, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has announced that it will stop burning coal in 10 years.

Despite its cogeneration plant being one of the most efficient coal plants in the country, the university wishes to join others in "leading the transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy".

By 2015, the University says it will replace 20 percent of its current coal consumption with biomass.

The Sierra Club applauds

UNC's effort in establishing a firm deadline as it continues its campaign to challenge universities to abandon coal.

—Dariusz Murakowski

House speaker used political influence to help applicants get into college

An investigation by the Chicago Tribune has revealed that the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, Michael Madigan, used his political influence to help 28 applicants get accepted into the two University of Illinois schools over the last three years.

The people he helped included relatives of public officials, political allies and donors.

The University has refused to release the name of the students but the paper was able to discover the scandal through documents obtained with the Freedom of Information Act.

One of the

students, who Madigan got off the waitlist, had received an F, two Ds and 13 Cs in his first three years in high school.

—Peter Sicher

UVA senior charged with murder of women's lacrosse player

George Huguely, 22, senior member of the University of Virginia's top-ranked men's lacrosse team, has been charged with first-degree murder of women's lacrosse player Yeardley Love, with whom he had previously been in a relationship.

Huguely has also been arrested in November 2008 and charged with public intoxication and resisting arrest after threatening to kill a police officer. He had to be tasered to be restrained.

University officials were not aware of his prior arrest.

Love's death last Tuesday marks the seventh University student to pass away this academic year.

A candlelight vigil was held on campus Wednesday night.

—Sarah Tan

Colorado State reverses decision to ban concealed weapons on campus

The Board of Governors of Colorado State University recently reversed its February decision to prohibit gun owners with concealed-carry permits from bringing their weapons on university property.

Fear of legal action is said to have compelled the decision. Legal precedent in Colorado states that licensed gun owners can carry weapons anywhere on campus, except for in residence halls. The ban on concealed weapons was set to start on August 1.

—Omar Qureshi

Study finds that state laws allow illegal immigrants to pay lower tuition

The National Bureau of Economic Research released a study

Hopkins Briefs

Lab at School of Medicine discovers fruit fly protein involved in organ sizing

The laboratory group of Duojia Pan, professor of molecular biology and genetics at the Hopkins School of Medicine, discovered a protein in fruit flies involved in determining how organs achieve the correct size.

The protein Kibra regulates the so-called Hippo pathway, which is involved in limiting organ growth.

As the researchers ascertained using the technique of RNA interference, in fruit flies that develop without the Kibra protein, the eyes become unusually large.

This research has implications for controlling and treating cancerous growths, as a similar protein also acts in the corresponding signaling pathway in humans.

—Dariusz Murakowski

Tech Transfer Office releases smartphone app

On May 3, the Hopkins Technology Transfer Office released a smartphone application which would allow users to have access to the goings on of the transfer office.

The office serves as the licensing branch for technologies developed by Hopkins faculty. Entrepreneurs and business people will now have real time access to the office.

The application will run on the iPhone, iPad and Motorola Droid.

—Omar Qureshi

BME masters students score 20 grand in a competition

A team of four Hopkins biomedical engineering masters students recently won \$20,000 in the Wharton Business Plan Competition at the University of Pennsylvania.

—Omar Qureshi

Cancer research award recognizes Hopkins scientist Joshua Mendell

Professor at the Hopkins School of Medicine Joshua T. Mendell received the American Association for Cancer Research Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cancer Research.

Mendell received the award for his research on microRNAs. He was given the award at the annual meeting for the American Association for Cancer Research.

Mendell received both his medical degree and doctorate from Hopkins.

The award is for \$50,000 and was presented during the American Association for Cancer Research meeting which took place in March. His research focused on RNA control over genes.

—Omar Qureshi

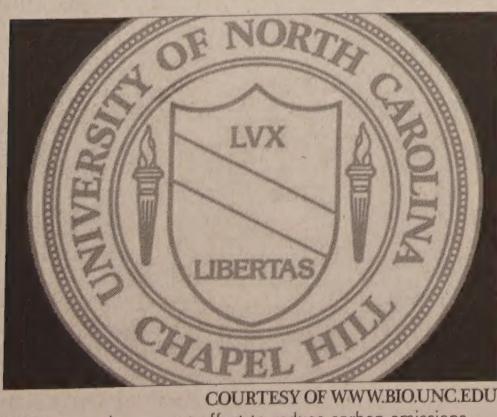
In addition to her dedication to her students, she is also known for providing some of the first evidence for the existence of an elementary particle called the top quark.

—Dariusz Murakowski

Seton Hall considering cancelling class on gay marriage

A Roman Catholic school in New Jersey, Seton Hall University, is considering cancelling a class on gay marriage after the Archbishop of Newark, John J. Myers, claimed the class would conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Myers also serves as the Chairman of the school's Board of Trustees and the President of its Board of Regents. The course, taught by W. King Mott, is scheduled for next fall. Mott told the campus paper, The Setonian, that the course "is not about advocacy, but about studying the issue from an academic perspective." Mott formerly served as Associate Dean of the school's College of Arts and Sciences but was demoted in 2005 when he wrote a letter to The Setonian criticizing the Catholic Church's views on homosexuality.

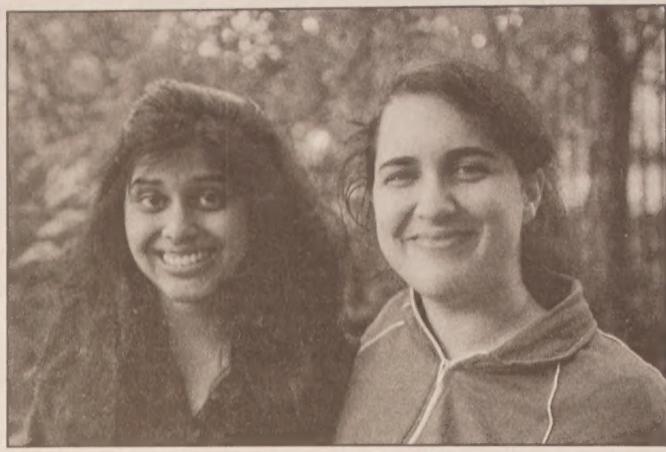
—Peter Sicher



COURTESY OF WWW.BIOUNC.EDU

UNC has made a recent effort to reduce carbon emissions.

FAREWELL



To Our Editors-in-Chief:

Well, you're finally done. There have been a lot of long nights, trips to 7-11 and website disasters, but we got through it all thanks to you. We wish you lots of sleep and all the best in the future... and hopefully paying jobs for a change.

2009-2010 Editorial Staff

Window Left: Marie Cushing, Payal Patnaik.
Window Right: Ming Wen, Jeff Zhu, Leah Mainiero.

Back Left to Right: Greg Sgammato, Daniel Litwin, Christina Warner, Lily Newman, Omar Qureshi, Anne Faber, Kelsey Miller, Peter Sicher, Will Shepherdson, Husain Danish, Laura Muth, Tiffany Ng.

Front Left to Right: Anne Kirwan, Rebecca Fishbein, Sarah Tan.

Not Pictured: Stephanie Delman, Ann Wang, Jane Yee, Elaine Yu.

Best wishes to our seniors!

Marie "Sports!" Cushing



Leah "Globe-Trotting" Mainiero



Jane "(Comic) Stripper" Yee



Congratulations to the 2010-2011 Editorial Board

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PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS
GRAPHICS EDITOR
MAGAZINE EDITORS
NEWS & FEATURES EDITORS Rian Dawson, Laura Muth, Wang Jae Rhee
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LAYOUT EDITOR
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Greg Sgammato, Christina Warner
Anna Salzman, Morgan Yang
Anne Faber
Husain Danish, Peter Sicher
Omar Qureshi
Anne Kirwan
Chip Harsh
Rebecca Fishbein, Phyllis Zhu
Tiffany Ng, Ann Wang
Alexander Mui
Kelsey Miller
Kelsey Donohue, Liz Kelen
Will Shepherdson

To our dedicated business staff

You guys don't get the recognition you deserve for all of your hard work.

The News-Letter couldn't exist without everything you do and so, on behalf of the entire editorial board, we thank you.

MARKETING MANAGER
Elliot Wehner

BUSINESS MANAGER
Max Spiegel

Use the summer to step up your sexual game

To be honest, I had a tough time coming up with ideas for this column. There's a lot of pressure that comes with writing the ultimate sex column of the year, especially following Rip's impressive feat last week in conquering the D-Level Challenge . . . it's kind of hard to top that.

I mostly sat around wishing I were actually getting laid, rather than just writing about it.

So I thought I'd start by reflecting on the past year, and if there has been any improvement, or decline, in the sex life here at good old Hopkins. Sadly, things remain essentially the same as they were at the start of this year.

There are still the millions of tirades on JHU Confessions authored by anonymous lonely boys, who continue to blame their lack of a sex life on the supposed parallel lack of hot girls. There are still the leagues of girls who get their rocks off either in the privacy of their bedrooms or by reaching outside of Homewood and finding off-campus guys who seem to think we girls are actually pretty decent looking, after all.

There are, of course, plenty of content couples, as well as a good amount of serial singles that are perfectly happy to play the field, choosing instead to perform the D-Level Challenge with their MCAT study guide.

These are your frat guys and your sorority girls who may or may not be getting laid on any given Saturday night.

There are your PJ's sports crews (particularly the lax teams) who just need to step in the door before having conquests throwing themselves at their feet.

Basically, nothing has changed: Those who were having sex before are still going at it, and those who were horny and alone are still confiding bitterly to their teddy bears at night.



Vivi Machi
Dirty Business



ANNE FABER/GRAFICS EDITOR

Something needs to happen.

Hopkins is known within the campus and out as being sexually stifled and prudish. Students complain constantly about the general state of unhappiness felt by most of the population, the lack of friendliness and the unwillingness of many to experiment or try something new and crazy, especially in the sack.

These are supposed to be the best years of our lives! Yes,

we all know we go to a challenging school, and that in order to succeed in the future, we must sacrifice much time, sleep and sanity in the years that we need those things most.

But how much you sacrifice depends on you. There's clearly

plenty of people here who manage to juggle schoolwork and a social life (which includes plenty of sex), and guess what? They're the happiest ones at this hellhole of a school. Coinci-

dence? I think not.

So if you're unhappy with your current sex life (or lack thereof), take advantage of the upcoming summer to broaden your horizons, figure out what you're actually into and take some chances. Summer is the ideal time to improve your life in ways that will affect the rest of your year.

If you don't know how to approach girls here, practice your game on a cute stranger while Euro-railing next month. If she blows you off, no biggie — it's not like you're going to see her the next day in class. Try again in the next city.

Summer hookups are profitable in that the anonymity and/or the assurance that you will probably never see this person again brings out a creativity and willingness to try new positions and situations that you would never even fathom verbalizing here.

These years are prime for experimentation, and we're wasting them away while drowning in apathetic self-pity.

"But Vivi," you may retort, "it's not that easy." I'm sorry, but in fact it is. Once you get in the mindset that you're going

to stop this dry spell, or that you're ready to try some crazy new move, everything just falls into place. All you need is a push.

So here it is. Here's your push. Maybe we can all come back in the fall, healthier, happier, and more in tune with our sexual identities. Maybe, now confident in yourself, you can finally approach that girl you were eyeing at every party this year. Maybe the depressing threads about desperate guys resorting to Craigslist call girls and miserable single girls will magically disappear.

Probably not, but here's to wishful thinking.

College is a time for taking chances, making mistakes and getting messy (Come on, you think Ms. Frizzle was just talking about science on the *Magic School Bus*?). Summer allows us to break loose from our normal behaviors for 12 beautiful weeks. Just don't bring a camera along lest you ruin your chance for a political career.

Here's to making the 2010-2011 school year a whole lot happier, and sexier.

• We'll all get some satisfaction out of it.

Managing your image: Man up without the murse

While walking around the quadangles on campus on your way to or from class, I'm sure many of you take notice of the people walking around you.

You might think to yourself, "Wow, that girl is actually pretty cute," or, "Dude, that backpack probably weighs more than you!"

But if you're a girl, do you ever find yourself thinking, "Whoa, that Louis bag is really hot! Should I go ask him how much he got it for?" Or, if you're a guy, "Man, I really need to go and get that rhinestone studded, spaghetti-strapped black backpack! It looks so convenient!" No, yes, maybe?

Well, it's a fact that lately, more men can be found toting large designer bags with a distinctly feminine flair.

The concept of bags for men isn't exactly new. It's been quite popular in Europe and especially East Asia for a decent number of years now. But only in the last few years has it made an impact in the U.S.

Not-so-affectionately termed the "murse," short for "man-purse," these bags designed for men (and occasionally designed for women but still found on a man's shoulder) have increased in popularity for both the gay and metrosexual demographics.

Not having one myself, I am interested in the reasons for this rising trend and also the reasons why it has received resistance.

Of the people I have spoken to, the largest argument of support comes in the form of functionality. Many men seem to feel that pockets are no longer enough. These men simply wish to take more with them and having a larger handbag is perfect to stuff away whatever they might need without the awkward bulge in the thigh and butt areas. Especially since jeans are getting tighter these days, space is becoming limited.

However, this doesn't exactly answer the question of why these bags come in the fashion-forward flavor of designer-labeled goods.

Those who chose man-bags could have easily opted for a classic backpack.

The answer I received was quite endearing. One friend, quoting Kurt from the TV comedy *Glee*, said, "Every moment of your life is an opportunity for fashion."

And I can understand this. Everyone wants to look good. Expensive clothing and accessories have always been a status symbol as well as a confidence booster.

Why can't men enjoy functionality and fashion just like women? As one can easily guess though, not all men are happy with this rising trend.

The uniform cry against man-bags is predictable: "It's really girly!" One person I met went so far as to say, "It's basically a step away from cross-dressing."

And I have to admit, I don't

disagree with them. Men carrying large, designer-labeled purses with bold designs and the occasional sparkly accent look feminine to me; which, in and of itself, isn't a problem. If you're gay and want to flaunt your preferences, that's fine. Wear a murse. If you're straight and want to look gay, that's fine. Wear a murse.

But, if you're straight and don't want to look gay, don't f-ing wear a murse. The question boils down to

this: Is it intentional? I know a lot about the assumptions people make about a person based on appearances, and therefore I think it is extremely important that people are conscious of the signals they project with both their words and their bodies — including what they wear over it.

A man wearing a bag originally and blatantly intended for female use is going to impart upon him a large degree of femininity. And if he obviously did not intend for it, the style degenerates into a ridiculous mess of gender-confusion and WTF moments for those around him.

I understand from my travels that in certain cultures, it's perfectly normal for guys to have these expensive — and what would be considered in the U.S., "flaming" — man-bags around their shoulders and still somehow escape with their straightness intact.

Interestingly, at the same time I also know how important defined gender roles and not being seen as a homosexual are in these cultures.

But here's the problem: In the U.S., it's different. Here, those Gucci bags and Louis Vuitton totes are totally gay. Which is a problem right?

Let me see if I can make this clear by borrowing an example from Dave Chappelle: When you see a girl in the club with half her a-- hanging out of her mini skirt and her boobies mashed together, popping out of her tight top, you assume she's a slut.

But if you go up to her and ask for a good time, you'll probably get a response like, "Just because I am dressed this way, it does not make me a whore!" Which is true! Just because you dressed a certain way, it doesn't mean you are a certain way.

But damn, it sure as hell is confusing! I could dress up as a cop and stand on a street corner and some nice person could come up to me asking for help. To which I would have to respond, "Sir, just because I am dressed in a police uniform, it does not make me a police officer!" Do you get my drift, guys?

Man-bags are indeed very convenient. But they are also very feminine and come with the stigma that men who carry them are probably gay. Which is fine if you are, but if you're not, that's a problem right?

Power up with protein to complement your workout

In the latter half of the 20th century, more work went into the science of bodybuilding than ever before.

One of the first things they discovered was that diet played as important a role in muscle physiology as actual weight lifting. Metabolism is influenced by a variety of molecules: There are the basic building blocks, protein, carbohydrates and fat, along with supplements like vitamins, creatine and caffeine.

Protein is incredibly important to lifting and nutrition in general. A normal person should eat one gram of protein per kilogram of bodyweight and a person that lifts regularly should eat two grams per kilogram of bodyweight.

There are multiple sources of protein. Whey and casein protein come from dairy. Whey protein is faster to break down, while casein is slower.

Soy protein is an alternative, but is not as effective as the dairy derivatives and contains a precursor to estrogen that is counterproductive to lifting.

Whey protein should be taken within 30 minutes of lifting so that your body has the resources to rebuild.

There is a window of anabolic activity in muscles directly after lifting that can be capitalized on if there is abundant protein present.

In a single serving approximately 30 grams of protein should be consumed.

Throughout the day levels of protein in the body should be maintained by high-protein foods or shakes.

In addition, some studies were done where casein protein was taken before sleep to help metabolism during this rest period with favorable results.

The result of protein consumption will be faster recovery and faster lean muscle growth.

Protein as a food group is good because it will preferentially contribute to muscle tissue, not fat, and is satiating. Too much protein in a diet will lead to kidney damage, so be sure not to consume too much in any one serving or in a day.

Carbohydrates before a workout are good for energy, especially if it has an aerobic focus.

The problem

with carbohydrates as a staple of a diet is that they don't make you feel full as quickly or for as long and will lead to more overall caloric consumption throughout the day than if fat or protein is the staple.

Carbohydrates play a role in muscle growth by signaling insulin secretion, which is important for protein storage and access.

However, carbohydrate consumption can also lead to insulin insensitivity and diabetes.

Fat plays an important role in satiation. High fat meals will make you feel fuller for longer and can curb total caloric consumption. They have a strange relationship with carbohydrates, which is the premise of the Atkins diet.

Fats by themselves cannot be used by the body, since they do not activate an uptake pathway. Carbohydrates initiate insulin production, which allows for lipid uptake and use.

So if carbohydrates are not consumed with the lipids, then the lipids will pass through the body.

The Atkins diet has its own problems, though, because excess cholesterol and triglyceride consumption can lead to heart complications, so a balance between the three building blocks should be maintained.

It is also important to take vitamins every day to help with every aspect of metabolism, give you more energy and boost your immune system.

These types of supplements are especially important in college, where balanced nutrition can be difficult to attain.

So go out there and eat, Blue Jays, and get JHuge.

to the bodybuilder's repertoire. The problem with creatine is that there is no long term data to be 100 percent sure there are no side effects. Some complications could be kidney or liver damage from processing this metabolite or heart damage as a result of the increased liquid volume in the body.

There are also reports that taking creatine in high doses daily may result in a permanent decrease in basal creatine production. The premise of creatine is that it is a key molecule in substrate-level phosphorylation, which is

the phase of energy usage before anaerobic metabolism has even begun. Creatine donates phosphate to ATP for fast energy access during sudden stress.

By providing more creatine, more burst energy can be accessed.

Thus, creatine supplementation can help with high-weight, low-rep workout routines or with sprinting.

Creatine will lead to instant weight gain from the extra water needed to hydrate the creatine molecules in the muscles, which is why water consumption must be increased to avoid dehydration.

If you stop taking creatine, you will lose weight and strength as a result of the change in creatine accessibility, but you will not lose the actual lean muscle mass that developed.

Caffeine is also important, because caffeine before a lift is proven to increase output of the workout, however caffeine addiction and tolerance will attenuate this effect, so it should be used sparingly for key lifts.

Creatine is a recent addition

Nathaniel Counts

J-H-U-g-e



Nathaniel Counts

J-H-U-g-e

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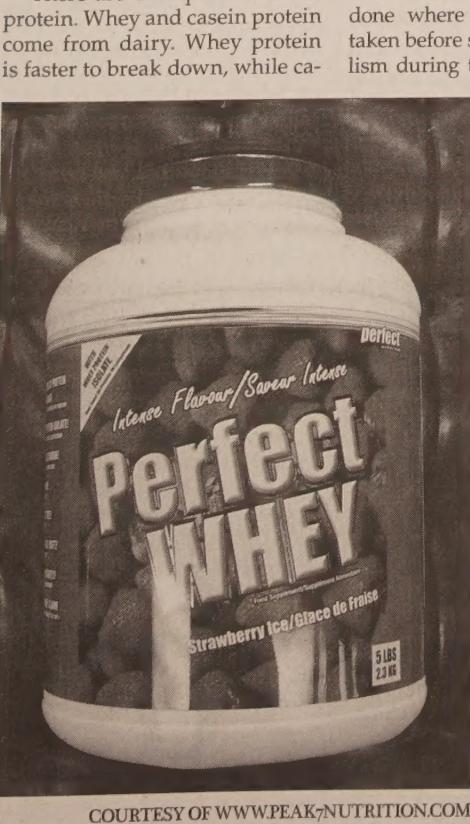
workout routines or with sprinting.

Creatine will lead to instant weight gain from the extra water needed to hydrate the creatine molecules in the muscles, which is why water consumption must be increased to avoid dehydration.

If you stop taking creatine, you will lose weight and strength as a result of the change in creatine accessibility, but you will not lose the actual lean muscle mass that developed.

Caffeine is also important, because caffeine before a lift is proven to increase output of the workout, however caffeine addiction and tolerance will attenuate this effect, so it should be used sparingly for key lifts.

So go out there and eat, Blue Jays, and get JHuge.



COURTESY OF WWW.PEAKNUTRITION.COM

Whey protein powder in shakes can help build lean muscle.



COURTESY OF WWW.INSTYLEHANDBAG.COM

While it might be useful, the murse can cause some confusion in your daily interactions.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIALS

Keep CSU students from packing heat

Colorado State University recently decided to repeal a ban prohibiting concealed guns on university property. The original ban was passed in February and stated that all people—including those with licenses to carry a weapon—were prohibited from carrying guns on campus. University officials cited fear of a lawsuit as the basis for repealing the ban. Colorado State made the correct decision in February and should not have reversed it.

When individuals are allowed to possess guns in any setting, there is potential for an accident. To hold a gun on campus is to endanger everyone in the vicinity of its owner. People generally fear the chance of gun use in general, and thus, people who bring guns on campus increase the fear of fellow students and professors. Students might have a difficult time learning if they are aware that someone in the classroom possesses a gun.

Similarly, professors are more likely to be intimidated by students who possess guns. Note that a person need not use the gun or wave the gun around suggestively to inspire fear. The mere knowledge that guns are in a person's vicinity is sufficient to create a sense of fear.

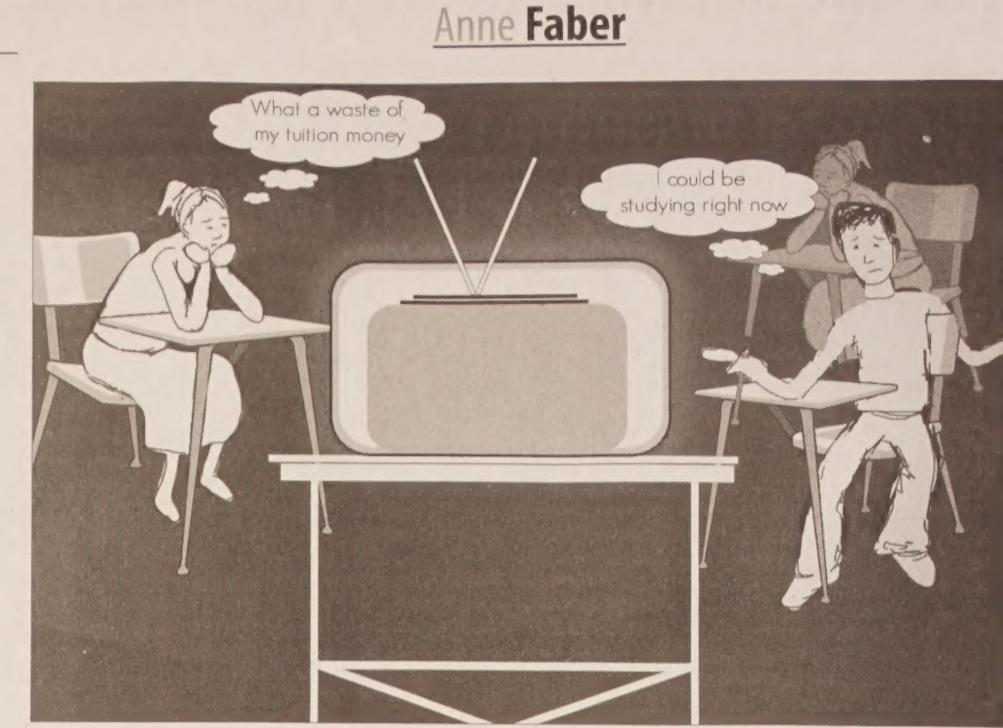
Most importantly, when both students and professors are scared of a particular person in a classroom, the quality of education decreases. This is sufficient justification for a university to impose a ban of weapons on campus.

It is accepted as standard practice for state universities to allow a weapons

ban in university housing. If the state is willing to recognize a ban on weapons in university housing, it is contradictory not to extend that ban to the rest of the campus. There is no reason why a distinction between housing rules and general campus rules should exist when it comes to the issue of weapons prohibition.

As a result, Colorado State University would likely win a court case in defense of their February policy. Second Amendment rights can be restricted by government entities in certain situations. For example, a person cannot bring a weapon into a courtroom. That said, it does not follow that a state-run institution like Colorado State University cannot impose an equivalent ban. When there is a sense of pervasive endangerment, the state is justified in restricting the flow of weapons on specific properties. As no one would dispute a ban of weapons at a private college, it seems ridiculous that there would be a legitimate dispute at a state college.

Since the Virginia Tech shootings, universities are justified in trying to protect themselves from violence in any way they can. As long as people are allowed to bring weapons on campus, a weapon can be spotted that could potentially be used for a massacre of students and university security could do nothing about it. Admittedly, a gun ban will not stop all attempts at violence. However, a ban will allow officials to stop weapons if sighted, rather than waiting until it is too late.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support for need-blind admissions at Hopkins

When I read the April 29 article "Hopkins moves toward need-blind admissions process" by Peter Sicher, I was happy to hear that we are finally making a much-needed change to admissions policy. I have always been disappointed that we are one of the few top schools that is not need-blind.

However, it's important to recognize that need-blind admissions is only one step in the process of increasing economic diversity at Hopkins. More work is needed before Hopkins admissions actually attains the ideal

of admitting students regardless of family wealth. For example, Hopkins still offers Early Decision, which has been shown to be biased against less wealthy students. The reason is that, while ED dramatically increases a student's chance of admission relative to Regular Decision, students who need financial aid apply ED less often because they can't compare aid offers with those of other schools. Thus the effect of ED is simply to increase the admissions rate for wealthy students. If Hopkins eliminates its Early Decision

program, it will be following in the footsteps of schools like Harvard, Princeton and UVA, which have already done so in order to decrease socioeconomic bias. Doing so would make Hopkins admissions fairer and come closer to living up to its ideals.

Still, moving towards need-blind admissions is a step in the right direction. Kudos to President Daniels and all those working to make need-blind a reality.

— Martin Kelly
Class of 2013

Improving JHED is a top priority

This upcoming fall, Hopkins will officially be switching over from the current WebCT to an updated Blackboard. Blackboard recently bought out WebCT and the change will help to improve the current system in a variety of ways, including the introduction of a new user interface and the ability to access courses for up to four years after they have been taken.

Improvement to WebCT is welcome. Both students and teachers have voiced complaints about the nearly decade-old system and it is encouraging to know that the administration is listening to its faculty and student body.

The annual satisfaction survey for ISIS, distributed by Student Systems and Educational Technologies (SSET), is similarly a step in the right direction. Hopkins students have been vocal about a multitude of problems with ISIS and this survey, along with invitations to participate in the 2010 ISIS User Conference, provide productive ways to improve a vital system.

These promising signs, though, are not nearly enough. Many other aspects of the Johns Hopkins Enterprise Directory (JHED) are essentially broken.

For example, the JHED mailing system, Johns Hopkins Enterprise Messaging (JHEM), only has 100 megabytes of storage space.

As a result, users are frequently forced to delete messages. This restrictive feature also makes actions like e-mailing multimedia files extremely difficult.

As a result, students are often forced to pursue other e-mailing systems, completely defeating the purpose of JHEM. Insofar as one realizes that JHED's problems are keeping it from being a viable option for Hopkins students, the money being put toward it is going to waste.

The *News-Letter* endorses a complete overhaul of the current JHED system.

First and foremost, the storage capacity of JHEM should be increased drastically. The mailing system is the most frequently used resource offered by JHED, and as such it should be the first to receive attention.

Furthermore, IT@JHU should improve JHED's user interface. This concern has already been addressed by the Hopkins administration with respect to the shift from WebCT to Blackboard.

The problem is that JHED is scarcely easier to use than WebCT. It should be a priority to overhaul the interface of the entire system, not just its e-Education component.

Additionally, there should be efforts to increase knowledge of the already present services offered by JHED. For example, not many students know that they can access any reserves for any of their courses directly from JHED.

The entire purpose of the system is to cater to its users, and all parties would benefit from increased transparency.

These recommendations, however, must be qualified. All the blame should not be placed on the administration alone. Students bear the responsibility of communicating to the IT@JHU and other organizations exactly what changes they want implemented.

Hopkins has already made efforts to measure student opinion: The aforementioned efforts to receive feedback from the students attest to this fact. In light of this, students who are unsatisfied with JHED must make an effort to affect change if they want their complaints to receive any legitimacy.

The switch from WebCT to Blackboard is an indication that Hopkins is willing to work to improve their electronic resources. Unless students make the decision to communicate their concerns, though, any improvement is likely to stop here.

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to chiefs@jhunewsletter.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of *The News-Letter* and can not be returned. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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OPINIONS

Javier Avitia

Come on, AZ.: New bill a veiled expression of American racism



ANNE FABER/GRAFICS EDITOR

Amongst other things the new immigration bill in Arizona has been called a triumph in border security, a step in the right direction, and, most abhorred of all, just.

Admittedly, the bill does not initially sound terrible and — in the letter of the law — it makes perfect sense: Why let illegal aliens take away jobs from citizens while siphoning away social services from the tax-paying populace? As American citizens, why should we pay more so someone who gives nothing can receive public services?

Such is the argument in support of this bill. The problem, though, is that it is inherently racist.

For one, it has been shown that while it is true that illegal immigrants have a negative impact on the economy in some ways, they also contribute to others such that the net effect is "a small net positive," according to Adam Davidson, a journalist for National Public Radio. "Harvard's George Borjas says the average American's wealth is increased by less than one percent because of illegal immigration."

Putting that aside, we hear arguments claiming illegal aliens are responsible for a disproportionate amount of the nation's crime. According to Harvard sociology professor Robert Sampson, "first-generation immigrants ... were 45 percent less likely to commit violence than third-generation Americans, adjusting for individual, family, and neighborhood background."

Indeed, contrary to popular belief, illegal immigrants are far less likely to commit crimes than homegrown Americans.

In reality, the only valid argument states that by giving law enforcement the authority to stop suspected aliens and asking them for documentation, illegals will be deterred from entering the country altogether, meaning this bill only affects illegal aliens, not legal residents.

Granted, according to the letter of the law, legal Americans should have nothing to worry about since this only grants authorities the right to question suspected illegals.

But there's the hazy part: suspected.

What justifies "suspicion"? What does an illegal alien look like? That's

the question proponents of this bill are hesitant to answer because "illegal" has too often become synonymous with "Mexican" and this is racial profiling.

Regardless of how much training police officers and other law enforcement may receive to spot suspected aliens, the image that comes to mind when people think of an illegal is still someone with brown skin who speaks Spanish — in other words, a Mexican.

So while this bill is meant for illegals, it inevitably affects Mexican-Americans of color. If a brown-skinned man is simply talking to some friends or relatives in Spanish and a cop overhears it, does that give the cop the right to assume that this citizen is an illegal criminal?

Proponents are quick to assert that this is not an issue. If the suspect shows proper documentation, thereby proving his legal status, end of story.

But what if a brown-skinned man is simply taking a walk around his neighborhood without his driver's license or other forms of documentation?

Does that make it alright for the cops to detain him until a family mem-

ber or friend can prove he's not illegal?

And even then, what's to keep ICE from deporting him anyway, especially if he doesn't speak great English?

This may sound like a stretch, but it has already happened before without the provisions of this bill in place, and it happened to an American citizen | that did speak good English.

According to author Jacqueline Stevens, attorney Neil Rambana, "who'd reported an earlier case of a client of his that ICE had misclassified as a noncitizen, is helping another U.S. citizen, Mark, in the middle of a surreal and excruciating experience with the DHS."

None of this is to say that I support or condone illegal immigration. As an American citizen and a Mexican-American, I staunchly support immigration reform — including measures for increased border security and a strict but fair path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already here — but this bill shamelessly treads on the dignity of American citizens.

Americans are not all white, nor do they conform to one generic stereotype, but if law enforcement detained a white American because he didn't have proof of citizenship on him, it would be called out for the gross injustice that it is. Indeed, this has already happened.

A prominent example is the case of Manuel Bartsch, a German-born illegal alien brought to the United States by his step-grandfather. Author Jessica Golden writes that Manuel "is an ordinary 18-year-old. It wasn't until December 2005 that he realized he was different.

He needed his Social Security number to take the college boards and realized he didn't have one — and it was only then that he learned he was not a legal resident of the United States."

The case received extensive media coverage from news outlets and support from Americans normally opposed to amnesty for illegal aliens, citing how he "thought of himself as American, not German," and how the only life he had known was in the United States.

Bartsch was eventually allowed to stay after a mass outcry arose over the "injustice" being done to him, but how many countless illegal Hispanics are brought over without their knowledge, yet are still held accountable for something they did not do intentionally?

This is a double standard seen time and time again. What, then, is it about speaking Spanish and having dark skin that automatically makes it acceptable to encroach on civil liberties?

Javier Avitia is a materials science engineering major from Los Angeles, Ca.

Aaron Jones

Stopping the Dragon: Increase Tariffs on Chinese Goods

In response to both the recent calls for tariffs in Congress and the debate in the Treasury over whether to label China as a currency manipulator, the Chinese government has decided to allow the Yuan to appreciate slightly.

They have, however, sent mixed messages to the United States by vocally opposing tariffs against their goods while also adding tariffs against American chicken exports to China.

While many economists and politicians believe that a bout of protectionist anti-Chinese trade policies would hurt the economy, they have a narrow view of the issue and not a broad view of the implications of their ideas.

For these reasons, the U.S. should increase tariffs against Chinese exports entering this country.

Since 1949 China has opposed the U.S. and her hegemonic power as projected in East Asia. From China's involvement in the Korean War to its shelling of Quemoy and Matsui in 1962 to its present belligerent acts against U.S. Naval vessels in the region, China has proven itself to be no friend of the U.S. or its alliances.

Only in its economic realm has China moved away from its stifling overbearing exercise of control.

Because of this, many economists and supporters of commercial peace international relations theory depose the idea of tariffs.

Both of these groups, however, possess a view that is far from correct.

Economists would state that tariffs ruin trade and stifle the benefits of comparative advantage between countries that can produce certain goods efficiently.

ly and those who cannot.

While this is true to an extent, the recent economic crisis has shown that the U.S. needs to reign in its rampant consumerist culture in order to help reform the dynamics of the economy.

This should be done so that there will be savings in case of another crisis in order to help reduce the trade deficit that the U.S. suffers from, and to help to keep capital within the U.S. in order to help reduce the national debt.

If free trade is so great, then why do the Chinese refuse to allow their currency to float freely based on market forces?

It is because they know that a depreciated currency leads to higher net exports that will keep foreign goods too expensive for the Chinese consumer so that their domestic market will prefer domestic goods, and so that foreign markets will prefer their goods as well.

Supporters of commercial peace believe that maintained trade relations would make it impossible for countries to go to war with each other for fear of damaging their economies.

If this is true, no one informed the Germans when they invaded France, its biggest trading partner before World War II started, or when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union, its biggest trading partner from the start of the war until it invaded the Soviet Union.

Aggression has no logic, and when

one wishes to extend its reach into other countries, its trading partners are the usual targets, geography permitting.

The Japanese Empire showed this when it attacked the U.S. in spite of the fact that President Roosevelt offered to negotiate a normalization of U.S.-Japanese relations including an end to the embargo against Japan.

The commercial peace supporters would also argue that it is only a matter of time until China embraces liberal democracy.

If this is true, it certainly has taken an awfully long time for this to happen.

The U.S. has a trade embargo against Cuba, a dictatorial state run through the continued existence of its despotic rulers Fidel and Raúl Castro.

China is a totalitarian state that maintains power not through a single personage, like Cuba or North Korea, but through a complex and sophisticated party network that has rarely fallen into instability since it took power in 1949.

Which of these regimes would most likely succumb to the benefits of trade and democratize?

It will take a lot more than accepting unfair Chinese trade practices to gain cheap goods for American consumers to cause a regime change in a modern power like China.

China aspires to be able to limit our ability to project power in East Asia so that it can become to East Asia what the Soviet Union was to Eastern Europe during the cold war, the hegemonic bully that manipulates countries for its own gain.

China has backed the corrupt military dictatorship of Burma, the vile government of Bashir in the Sudan, the oppression of the Uighurs and Tibetans in Xinjiang province and Tibet respectively, and the despicable "Democratic" People's Republic of Korea, merely for its geopolitical benefit.

The money that China makes goes to bullying Taiwan, arming the Janjaweed in the Sudan, murdering Karen and Kachin rebels in Burma, and helping to maintain one of the most evil governments to ever exist in East Asia, North Korea.

Not to mention, it aids the development of a navy that, while not likely to be capable of challenging the U.S. Navy anytime soon, could harass our country's goals of aiding fellow liberal democracies through its development of a large attack submarine fleet.

Are the cheap goods that we get from China really worth the suffering of millions of people and the fall of liberal democracy in Asia?

Tariffs to limit consumption of Chinese goods are the best option that the U.S. has at this moment to curtail this devastating trend, one that threatens global stability.

In the meantime, if the economists want trade, then the American defense industry should be allowed to sell any weapons, within the limitations of federal law, to American allies like Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and Australia in order to make sure that Asia and Oceania possess the tools necessary to counter Chinese hegemony.

The U.S., now more than ever, needs to stand up for civil liberties around the world.

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Neil Albstein

Obama: Keep government small and on its toes

Anyone who has read my previous contributions to this page has probably picked up on the fact that I don't agree with President Obama very often. Therefore, it seems fitting that my final opinion before I graduate is to criticize the speech Obama delivered at the University of Michigan's commencement.

Obama dedicated much of his talk to discussing wonderful things big government had done for the people. He mentioned the transcontinental railroad, public schools, the Great Depression and New Deal, breaking up monopolies and other major government projects. Sadly, as usual, Obama fails to tell the whole story.

The building of the transcontinental railroad may have occurred sooner than it would have without governmental intervention, but the railroad would most likely still have been built, and without the political dealing and corruption that cursed the project. Public schools are of inconsistent quality and are a product of state government, and therefore, do not belong in the same conversation as Obama's other points.

The Great Depression and subsequent New Deal are both examples of government failure (the Great Depression has been at least partially blamed on Federal Reserve policy and much of the New Deal was ruled unconstitutional, in addition to the fact that World War II was greatly responsible for the United States' recovery). The benefits of trust busting are questionable at best.

To sum up, the President's choices of examples fail to make a convincing case for government interventionism. His speech, however, was not devoid of value. He made a number of valid points. Obama acknowledged, "We know that too much government can stifle competition and deprive us of choice and burden us with debt." Sadly, Obama's style of governance does not reflect this acknowledgement.

Obama also correctly asserts that government in not inherently bad. Of course, since there are few true anarchists around, argument was not really relevant and serves to obfuscate the real arguments against a domineering administration, namely the fact that bad governance can be extremely harmful.

Obama also took this opportunity to argue against the intense partisanship prevalent in U.S. society today. He is absolutely right. The current political environment stifles useful debate and gives extremism a disproportionate voice.

Of course, it is easy to rail against polarization when it is holding up your legislative agenda. What would be more impressive would have been if he had actually managed to earn some Republican support for his signature issue, healthcare reform.

His remarks were vintage Obama, based on his own version of reality. His points varied from out-of-touch-with-reality to outright hypocrisy. However, it is important to remember that Obama is hardly unique as a politician.

Republicans and Democrats have long been guilty of misleading the public with empty rhetoric while failing at the jobs to which they had been elected.

The sorry history of partisan interference in government dates back to the founding. For this reason, it is essential that we, the American people, do not let speeches like Obama's lull us into a sense of security.

No matter who is in office, we must always be on guard against the potential the government has to fail us. Our democracy is the only thing that continues to protect us against the potential excesses of politicians run amok.

As I prepare to bid Hopkins farewell, I ask that we, the elite students of the nation and essential cogs in America's future, never forget that it is up to us to do our part in keeping vigilant watch on the government.

No matter how well or poorly any individual politician may perform, their contributions are only temporary.

In the American democracy, the people are the ultimate authority and are responsible together for their collective fate.

Neil Albstein is a senior political science major from New York, N.Y. He is an editor-at-large for The News-Letter.

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FROM ALMOST



Summer is coming... and that means some of you will go home, some of you will start your first job, some of you may travel. No matter where you go JHFCU wants to come with you! We have two services that will allow you to access JHFCU from almost anywhere.

DeposZip™ – Using your personal computer, high-speed internet, and a scanning device, eligible members may send digital images of their checks securely to the Credit Union for deposit.

Shared Branching – You have access to thousands of credit union locations worldwide where you can perform basic teller transactions just as if you were at a JHFCU branch. To find a complete list of the 3,571 participating credit unions, visit cusevicecenter.com.

For more information about these services and membership at the Johns Hopkins Federal Credit Union, please visit our branch at Charles Commons, 4. E. 33rd Street, next to Barnes & Noble, call 410-534-4500 or visit jhfcu.org.

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Have a good summer
and look for *The
News-Letter* open
house in the fall!



THE B SECTION

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

MAY 6, 2010

Blue Jays Dominate Conference, Page B12

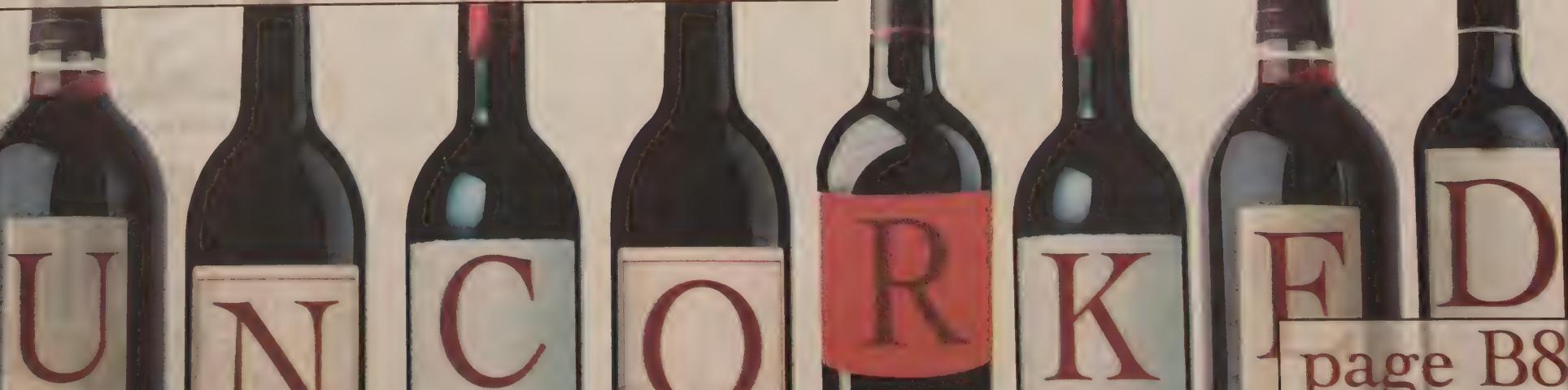
X
Baseball
continues to
NCAA playoffs



Women's
Track wins
first title

Tennis
teams extend
championship
streaks

Red wine's health benefits

UNCORKEFD
page B8

YOUR WEEKEND MAY 6-9

Mount Vernon in Bloom

The 99th-Annual Flower Mart

Grab a glass of wine and shop around the monument — it's time for the 99th-annual Flower Mart in Mount Vernon.

The Flower Mart is one of those traditions from Baltimore's heyday that thankfully hasn't been swallowed up by modernity. Over the years the vendor list has expanded from a lone milk salesman to booths boasting jewelry, glasswork, photographs, t-shirts, gourmet condiments, tiles, purses, clocks, soaps and, of course, flowers.

Art displays, karate demonstrations, dance performances and exhibitions put together by local schools round out the visual entertainment, while The Social Security Chorus, Lorna Terry, The Frontier Dentists, Gene Vincent and The Cadillac Cruisers and other local groups take care of music.

For the competitive Flower Mart attendee there will be a hat and cap judging contest, a '60s-style dance contest and



MYCAPITALGARDENSUSA.CO.UK
Flower girls dance around the Maypole at Flower Mart, held in Mount Vernon.



COURTESY OF HKDIBBENRACING.COM
The last few seconds of another Pimlico track race.

Preakness 2010: Race and Events

FRIDAY

APTT Relax Fair International 2010

Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Beach

Come take a breather with A Place to Talk's relaxation fair, featuring a moon bounce, inflatable basketball, a mechanical bull, the Stress-Busters, music, free snow cones and cotton candy, puppies and a number of student groups. Complete your "passport" by visiting the booths, and you could win a free T-shirt or other prizes.

Buttered Niblets Improv

Friday, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Arellano Theater

For just \$1, enjoy the free-wheeling comedy of Hopkins's only improv group. You never know what they will say to keep you entertained.



'80s for Haiti Fundraiser and Party

Friday, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Great Hall

Wearing your favorite '80s (and '90s) attire is encouraged at this dance party to benefit Haiti. There will be a DJ, raffle items, a faux graffiti photo-op wall and a \$50 gift card for the best costume and dance-off winner. The cost of admission is \$5, and all proceeds go to Partners in Health.

Cinemaelstrom

Friday, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Beach

The Johns Hopkins Entertainer's Club presents their spring show. They will be performing fiery tricks while featuring parts of fiery movies like Kill Bill, 300, Pirates of the Caribbean, Mission Impossible, Star Wars and more.

OMA's "Midnight" Breakfast

Friday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

3003 N. Charles St.

Celebrate the end of classes and beginning of reading period. Come to the Multicultural Affairs Student Center for the second year of this free pancake breakfast, available to the first 150 attendees.

Water Balloon Fight

Friday, 5 p.m.

The Beach

Come celebrate the last day of classes and the beginning of summer with a water balloon fight on the beach! Balloons will be provided, so just come prepared to get soaked!

SATURDAY

Beta's Dining Dollar Donate-a-thon

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Charles Street Market

Want to do good with all those leftover dining dollars? Campus Kitchen will have donation boxes waiting outside of Charmar, where you can buy food and toiletries to donate. Be sure to consult their sign to know what they can accept. The collected items

Maryland Film Festival



COURTESY OF WWW.RIFFIS.COM

Dogtooth is just one of many unusual and compelling films that will be screened this weekend at the Maryland Film Festival.

www.md-filmfest.com.

is sure to be a controversial and powerful screening. Friday, 7 p.m., Charles Theater.

Dogtooth — A father teaches his children a false vocabulary and holds them prisoner in a distorted world. A dark comedy and psychologically unsettling film. Friday, 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 5 p.m., Charles Theater

Music by Prudence — An inspirational documentary about a Zimbabwean musician born with a congenital disorder. Academy Award winner. Friday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 5 p.m., MICA.

United 93 — Chosen by John Waters for the event, this pick

co takes the cameras behind the scenes to show the hilarity of creating an episode of *Saturday Night Live*. Friday, 10 p.m., MICA.

Total Recall — Chosen and hosted by Dan Deacon, a Baltimore music personality, this Schwarzenegger throwback promises to be entertaining. Saturday, 11 p.m., Charles Theater.

Mother and Child — The Closing Night film. This drama concerns families and lives connected by adoption. Sunday, 7:30 p.m., Charles Theater.

Saturday Night — James Fran-

— Kelsey Miller

Although the Preakness Race is not until Saturday, May 15, there is a whole week of events leading up to the race.

Preakness Week begins on Monday, May 8, and depending on your final schedule, you might find some time to enjoy the events.

There are several highlights, including a Frog Hop, on Wednesday, May 12, at 12 p.m. Come to Patterson Park to see a frog hop to a finish line.

There will also be the Hot Air Balloon Festival at Turf Valley, which takes place on Thursday and Friday, May 13-14, beginning at 3 p.m. Craft vendors, tethered balloon rides, a balloon glow at dusk, games, food and music are included in this free event.

On Friday, May 14 at 8:30 p.m. there will be the 37th Annual Preakness Parade, running down Pratt Street in the Inner Harbor.

The parade will include creative floats, helium-balloon characters, equestrians, bands and more.

If you're an early riser, there will be a colorful Balloon Launch at Turf Valley at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 15.

This will be followed by the big event: the 2010 Preakness. If you are finished with your finals, this event could be a nice way to unwind. Post time is at 6:15 p.m., but the Infield gates open at 8 a.m. The Infield is the place to be for the college-age Preakness experience.

Although spectators are not allowed to bring drinks, if you are of

age you can pay \$20 for an unlimited mug in the beer garden. Past race-goers might be anticipating a different atmosphere for this year's event, but come see for yourself.

InfieldFest events include an O.A.R. concert, a Zac Brown Band performance, a volleyball competition, cornhole tournament, bikini contest and a food and beer garden.

Tickets to the Infield cost \$40 and general tickets to the race are \$25. More information about the race is available at www.preakness.com.

— Kelsey Miller

YOUR SUMMER

Belvedere Square Events

May 14-Sept 17

www.belvederesquare.com

Enjoy food and catch a free outdoor concert, every Friday from 6-9 p.m.

Harborplace Concert Series

May 29-Sept 5

www.harborplace.com

Free concert series in the Harborplace Amphitheater. See website for the complete musical lineup.

Sowebo Festival

May 30

www.soweboarts.org/festival.html

This arts and music festival is in its 25th year, and again will bring a street cafe, vendors, performance artists and musicians to the historic Hollins Market neighborhood.

St. Nicholas Greek Folk Festival

June 10-13

www.greekfolkfestival.org

This free festival will celebrate Greek culture with wares, food and music. American Idol's Constantine Maroulis will perform.

Hon Fest

June 12-13

www.honfest.net

Enjoy this quirky and quintessentially Baltimore



ean festival celebrating the term of endearment "Hon," and the bee-hive hairdos, eye shadow and sash that go along with it. Hampden, 36th Street.

African-American Heritage Festival

June 18-20

www.aahf.net/2010/

A blend of entertainment, education, arts, food and more, all celebrating African-American heritage. M&T Bank Stadium.

Baltimore Pride

June 19-20

www.baltimorepride.org

Taking place in Mount Vernon and Druid Hill Park, this LGBT event will include a parade, block party, festival and a high heel race.

Little Italy Open-Air Film Festival

July 3-August 28

www.littleitalymaryland.com

Enjoy a meal, music and a movie, 7 p.m. on Fridays throughout the summer in Little Italy.

Artscape

July 17-19

www.artscape.org/

The U.S.'s largest free arts festival, this event in Mount Vernon features outdoor concerts, dance performances, theater, food and even an Art Car show.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SASH shows off dance skills with Spring show Chuck Palahniuk "tells all" about new novel

By PHYLLIS ZHU
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The South Asian Students at Hopkins (SASH) Satrangi Spring show stayed true to their name. Satrangi, meaning "seven colors," with a festive and vibrant mix of classical and contemporary Indian dance sets, an a cappella performance by the Hindi group Kranti and a delicious Indian buffet last Friday.

As students settled down with plates of naan, mutton paneer and chana masala, junior class SASH Representative Rohan Prahbu announced the first performance, "Day and Night," by Shakti, a classical Indian dance group.

Half of the all-girl group, donned in swaths of bright orange and yellow, took center stage. With fingers splayed and one hand on their hips, the dancers bent their bodies in a graceful arc as visual representations of the newly rising sun.

When the music picked up in tempo, each "light beam" of the sun would alternate between squatting with their arms held out like a "T" and forming an arc, until their nocturnal counterparts, dressed in purple and blue, nimbly swept onto the stage.

In a pseudo battle scene, the two groups crisscrossed several times, interweaving between one another, all the while stomping and shaking the ring of bells that were strapped to their ankles. The night dancers captured the spotlight with their statuesque poses and lithe pirouettes, causing the day dancers to surrender with a graceful exit.

The second act featured Kranti, an a cappella group, that sang a set of Hindi songs. The group's energy on the whole paled in comparison to the dynamic atmosphere that Shakti created earlier. There were several disharmonic moments and the supporting singers often overshadowed the soloists, making for a rather lackluster performance.

Senior Sujal Singh, who is also vice president of SASH, followed Kranti with a solo performance called "Dancing Through India," which was choreographed by



COURTESY OF PHYLLIS ZHU
The classical Indian dance group, Shakti, presented a visual battle between day and night at SASH's Satrangi Spring Show

Singh and fuses three popular Indian dance styles. The piece was created and performed for Singh's Homewood Arts Certificate, and Singh had another dancer accompany her for each individual dance form.

She paired well with each of her partners, creating symmetry by matching their movements while breaking the conformity with abnormal angles of their arms and legs. Overall, Singh's moves were passionate and showed both her endurance and talent as a solo performer. She ended with a brief stint of hip-hop and a flirtatious flick of her hips.

Then JOSH, also an all-girl dance team, showed their eclectic side with a sassy performance that combined hip-hop, bhangra and classical dance forms. The choreography of the dance was well done, and the performers themselves made smooth transitions between the different dance styles.

It was the last performance by Hareepa, Hopkins' Bhangra dance group, however, that really stood out. With the male performers wearing turquoise pugreees, or turbans, and

white kurtas — long Indian-style shirts, and the women performers in long baggy pants called salwars, the dancers started with their backs to the audience.

The dancers utilized props, with some holding Khunda (long sticks) and others holding Saaps (wooden criss-crosses that can be stretched like an accordion while dancing). Like a scene out of a Bollywood movie, the dancers bobbed their heads like broken puppets and wove in and out, all the while gyrating their arms and legs and jumping to the beat of the music. In a particularly impressive segment, the dancers

paired off to form a single line, and the men flipped their partners for a windmill effect.

The expressive and playful performance was crowned with the assembly of a convoluted human pyramid as the dancers clambered to grab and support various limbs. Though Hareepa's performance was preceded by a series of talented dances, it was clear theirs was the highlight of the night. On that energetic note, the SASH Satrangi Spring Show wrapped up a night of entertaining performances that gave Hopkins a taste of the South Asian culture.



COURTESY OF PHYLLIS ZHU
Senior Sujal Singh and Hopkins grad Rashmi Basapur perform a Raas/garba dance.

Lackluster Natty Paint launch fails to get off ground

By REBECCA FISHBEIN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Natty Paint Launch Party, held Saturday at the Load of Fun building on North Avenue, was, at least on paper, a great idea.

The burgeoning indie clothing company, created last spring by Hopkins alum Emily Li Mandri, has become a fairly hip addendum to the underground Baltimore art scene, and even Wham City staple Dan Deacon has been photographed sporting her Threadless-esque threads. Music, visual art and clothing combined in an attempt to create an epicenter of obscure young Baltimorean creation. How could this go amiss?

Somehow, despite the launch's promise of hipster excellence, something was missing.

The launch, which was intended to celebrate both the one-year

anniversary of the company's inception as well as its new website, was thrown in conjunction with the Pop-Up Project, a project intended to combine all aspects of Baltimore arts in one location at a time. The Load of Fun building was packed with key scene pieces, including works by local artists like Ann Everton, Cyle Metzger, Matthew Shelley, James Singewald and Hopkins film professor Karen Yasinsky.

The event also featured performances by Lazerbitch, Hounds, DJ Lemz, Animal Collective-esque band In Every Room, dance group Effervescent Collective and Ponytail band member Molly Siegel.

Natty Paint swag was available for purchase, including T-shirts, rompers and sweatshirts. In addition, those of age could purchase cheap cans of Baltimorean creation. How could this go amiss?

Somehow, despite the launch's promise of hipster excellence, something was missing.

SEE LAUNCH, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA BYER
The launch party featured Baltimore musicians like electronica band In Every Room.

By KRISTIAN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

People love to dance, to use their body as a familiar instrument to convey an idea, an impression. Dancing's beauty and simplicity leaves no need for music or a stage, merely the ability to vaguely shuffle in a direction.

Dance has evolved from simple prehistoric beginnings, splitting into various styles and identities over the centuries.

Regardless of the differences of technique, the purpose remains the same, to illustrate a theme, a concept. Without this, dance disassembles into a series of exaggerated gestures of vague intent.

The Ballet and Eclectics showcase, which took place in Shriver Hall on Friday night, was unfortunately a casualty of the latter.

The Classical Ballet Company is a relatively new group to Hopkins, having only established itself on campus four years ago.

Since then, however, they have maintained a fairly strong presence in the University's art scene.

During Friday's Spring Exhibition, the company, in an effort to shake any preconceived no-

tions of ballet, decided to mix up a typical routine with a combination of raunchy and delicate choreography. This created an interesting juxtaposition of staid and sexual, though ultimately it did not quite work.

The first piece "All that Jazz" was an early indicator of the ex-

tions of ballet, decided to mix up a typical routine with a combination of raunchy and delicate choreography. This created an interesting juxtaposition of staid and sexual, though ultimately it did not quite work.

The first piece "All that Jazz" was an early indicator of the ex-

periments direction in which they were ostensibly hoping to go during their program.

The piece was an interesting combination of jazz and en pointe, which, in contrast to later piece "Tainted Love", worked.

The next two pieces fell into the more traditional oeuvre of ballet, and the dancers themselves seemed more comfortable, leaping and bounding and later sashaying to classical orchestral music.

"Tainted Love" followed those two pieces, the tights traded in



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
The showcase featured classical ballet choreography, hip-hop and jazz dance, as featured in the above number.

for fishnet stockings, and the audience was treated to a plodding suggestive extravaganza.

There was a distinct lack of energy in the cane twirls, as many of the dancers looked very uncomfortable in their various se-

ductive poses.

The rest of the programme seemed to fall into a similar pattern, a lackadaisical mixture of good pieces and several that were lacking any discernible spark.

It should be mentioned that while the quality of the choreography was called into question, the execution level was high throughout.

This was reflected in the regular use of en Pointe, a technique that requires large amounts of skill and strength.

The thematic variety presented by the Classical Ballet Company could be applauded, though unfortunately, instead of revealing new directions for ballet to expand, it showed its limitations.

The breadth and variety stretched the programme beyond recognition, and lacked a coherent direction. This gave the impression of novelty, rather than reason.

The best performances were those that stayed simple, such as the Spanish Dance from Act III of Swan Lake, suggesting with quiet admonishment that new is not always better.

The performance put on by the Eclectics resembled their name. The stated ambition of the troupe is to blur the lines between the

SEE BALLET, PAGE B4

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The exhibition was divided between the Classical Ballet Company (pictured above) and the more modern Eclectics group.

Ballet show shows collection of choreography

FROM BALLET B3

distinct styles of dance, though the result of doing this is not necessarily better.

After all, if you combine all of the colors in a box of crayons, the resulting shade is an unremarkable brown.

That being said, there was clear distinction among all of their pieces. Some were based on hip-hop and some drifted off into a mélange of excessive hand movement and interpretive dance.

The hip-hop pieces were their strongest, and most energetic. The dancers looked far more natural and comfortable throughout their performances.

In comparison, the more ex-

perimental pieces were interesting in that they truly did explore and draw from a variety of styles. However, they were just not able to capture the same level of excitement.

The choreography in all of the pieces was for the most part eye-catching and undeniably innovative, and was accompanied by crisp and accurate execution by the dancers.

Try as they might to turn away from the conventional, the Eclectics must face an unfortunate reality that there is always a style that fits the group to a better effect. In their case, that would be hip-hop. This is not meant to discourage continuing to innovate,

because they should continue to do so, but also they need to keep their stylistic strengths in mind.

The Classical Ballet Company and the Eclectics offered glimpses of various interesting directions that may not have resulted in complete success.

Oftentimes there seemed to be a lack of thematic coherency throughout the performances. The wide variety of styles served to distract the audience instead of linking to each other in a discernible way.

Both of these groups are relatively new to campus and, based on this exhibition, are still trying to successfully define themselves stylistically.

By ROSE FORAN
For The News-Letter

The first thing a viewer should know about *Exit Through the Gift Shop* is that it is not a film about Banksy.

Indeed, the notoriously secretive English street artist is the brains behind the project and appears as an interviewee throughout the narrative, his voice disguised and his face shrouded in darkness.

The film is instead an uproarious look into the story of an unlikely and unwanted addition to the world of street art: Thierry Guetta.

Thierry plays both the hero and villain in *Exit Through the Gift Shop* in a way that only someone who is truly a village idiot can.

A French expert living in Los Angeles, Thierry stumbled upon the graffiti underworld amid his bizarre obsession with filming

every waking hour of his life, when, on a trip to France, he discovered his cousin is the famed street artist Space Invader.

Instantly hooked on the thrill of obsessively filming graffiti artists in action, Thierry becomes somewhat of an institutional voyeur after hanging around with Space Invader and his cohorts in both Paris and Los Angeles.

Movies based on comics and graphic novels in the past few years have tended to fall into one of two camps. The first tries to somewhat separate itself from its source material, attempting to stand alone as a film independent of the notion of comics, such as *The Dark Knight* has done.

The second fully embraces its source material and in many ways tries to be more a live-action comic than a film, as was seen with *Sin City*.

The Losers seems to occupy a middle ground — wanting to be a separate movie but trying too much to incorporate a comic book tone into what could have been a solid action picture.

Warner Brothers, who released and distributed the film, clearly seems to be trying to set up *The Losers* as a franchise (particularly given the ending), but I do not hold out hope for a sequel.

Rather, it is almost a foregone conclusion that they, like other studios, will continue to mine the nearly endless assortment of comics out there until they have squeezed every dollar that they can.

longer than two seconds, nonsensically strung together — no wonder that after watching it, Banksy mused that Thierry was "maybe just somebody with mental problems who happened to have a camera."

Exit Through the Gift Shop treads the line of pseudo-documentary farce and a much-to-realistic perspective on

the shallow tendencies of the art world and its disciples.

The perfect storm brews when the Frenchman, who sports eighteenth-century facial hair and constantly mangles English, becomes "Mr. Brainwash" after Banksy encourages Thierry to start creating his

EXIT THROUGH THE GIFT SHOP

Starring: Banksy, Shepard Fairey, Thierry Guetta
Director: Banksy
Run Time: 87 min.
Rating: R
Playing at: Landmark Harbor East Cinema

cover for Madonna's greatest hit collection.

There has been much speculation surrounding the nature of the film itself, and at times it seems as if this absurdist tale is too good to be true.

While Banksy's prankster reputation begs one to consider the suspicion that Thierry Guetta and Banksy were in cahoots

in the creation of Mr. Brainwash in order to prove to the public the extent of its label obsession, there is also the realistic possibility that Thierry is simply a dolt who got very, very lucky.

Exit Through The Gift Shop paints the art world as a mix between the Emperor's New Clothes and the fabled Yiddish town of Chelm, in which Thierry is both an emperor and the ultimate schlemiel.

While Thierry's success in his endeavors as a street artist leaves the audience with a bad taste in their mouth, Banksy uses Mr. Brainwash to ask fundamental questions about the evolution — or rather, devolution — of our notion of modern art.

"Andy Warhol was replicating images to show they were meaningless," he says.

"And now, thanks to Mr.

Brainwash, they're definitely meaningless."

But the prankster Banksy doesn't seem to take it all too seriously. At the conclusion of the film he muses, "Maybe it means art is a bit of a joke."

Exit Through The Gift Shop is the kind of perplexing thrill that will leave you smiling throughout the day.

With larger-than-life personas creating art on even more gargantuan canvases, the film invites the audience to experience an underworld that remains an enigma to most.

Although by the end of *Exit Through The Gift Shop* the audience might not be quite sure if the joke was on Thierry, the audience, or on the modern art enthusiast, they will enjoy the rare view into Banksy's strange and fanciful world.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dragon Tattoo as fierce as its title

By GREG SGAMMATO
Managing Editor

As the institution of cinema evolves, movies are increasingly overstated. Romance shifts to exploitation, violence is almost always hyperbolic and character development so transparent that even a second grader can see right through it. It comes as a rare and pleasant surprise, then, to find that — at least in the Nordic Region — not all hope is lost.

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, an English translation of the Swedish title *Män som hatar kvinnor* (2009), is in many ways a revelation. Directed by Niels Arden Oplev, the film is a successful amalgamation of a harrowing plot, tactful directing, convincing characters and masterful acting.

What makes all of these elements so conducive to success is that they are, more than anything else, subtle. The crux of the film is interesting enough, and as such the film does not attempt to distract from its core duty — to tell its story.

To begin, the plot. Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) is a journalist for the magazine *Millennium* who has recently fallen from grace. After Blomkvist is set up while attempting to bring down a corrupt Swedish busi-

nessman, he receives a call from one Henrik Vanger. A billionaire who lives on a remote Swedish island, Vanger hires Blomkvist to investigate the 40-year-old murder of his niece, Harriet.

What makes the situation so strange is that Vanger has received a framed flower — a favorite pastime of Harriet — from an unknown source ever since her death.

Through a string of circumstances, Blomkvist meets Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace), one of the best hackers in the country. Lisbeth hacks into the reporter's computer and, intrigued by his search for the answer to Harriet's mystery, joins the hunt for the truth.

Lisbeth is an enigma, an emotionally unavailable yet invariably intriguing character. Her past is often alluded to and, as a series of brutally realistic rape scenes display, her struggle is far from over. Despite her psy-

chological damage, Lisbeth is capable, fierce, and relentless in her methods.

Due to circumstances surrounding the day of Harriet's murder, only members of the Vanger family could have possibly committed the crime.

The dynamic of the search is not novel — it harks back to Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* — but the cold, creepy ambience of the Swedish island and a series of plot twists keep the search more than interesting.

The movie is fairly long — over two and a half hours — but its pacing never lets up and it rarely seems slow or boring. Indeed, the film is methodical in its unveiling of the mystery, never revealing too much yet always keeping the viewer enticed.

The film employs its journalistic setting to carry the audience along with the chase. Indeed, watching this film is like being an integral part of this investigation.

As was previously mentioned, performances in *Girl* are fantastic. Nyqvist is perfect as the moderate, contemplative yet ferociously determined reporter.

He is not a typical male lead — macho, overly masculine — but he is a realistic and believable hero. He's not classically good looking, but this only adds to his legitimacy as Blomkvist.

By and large, though, the shining star of the film is Rapace. She brings a fierce sense of gravitas to the character of Lisbeth, provoking both sympathy and intimidation with every step she takes.

Indeed, the movie could have forgone the murder mystery plot and focused solely on Lisbeth's character — it may even have been better. As it is, the entirety of the film serves to compliment Rapace's performance. It more than justifies the film's fantastic title.

Talk has been circulating about an American remake of this film. Whether or not that would be successful is yet to be determined. For now, two recommendations: see the Swedish version and recast Rapace. With all due respect, Kristen Stewart — rumored to be in talks for the role — would never measure up.

CP: I think if my books have an advantage in becoming films it's because they are filled with moments of action. The characters are constantly doing something to further the plot.

There's not a lot of contemplation, there's not a lot of integral life with my characters. They're always doing something that moves the plot forward.

Also my books tend to be short in a way that Ira Levin's books were short, books like *Stepford Wives* and *Rosemary's Baby*.

They were short and the characters were always doing something and that translates to motion pictures which are basically images of people in motion. They have to be moving in order to really exploit the form.

N-L: So what's next for you? You mentioned in an interview that your novel for 2011 will be called *Damned* and that it will involve a young girl trapped in Hell.

CP: There's a long tradition of a kind of innocent character who is thrust into horrible circumstances but doesn't really understand how they came to be there.

Like in *Shawshank Redemption*, the lawyer who finds himself in prison and he's not sure exactly what happened but he's forced to make the best of it.

And it's the same with so many orphan novels like *Pollyanna* where Pollyanna's parents have died before the novel begins and we find Pollyanna shipped off to live with an aunt somewhere far away.

So, in a way, *Damned* is one of those stories where a character is forced to kind of smile and make the best of a bad situation and in doing so finds a way to escape the situation.

N-L: Speaking of movies, how well do you feel that your books translate into film? You have the obvious success of *Fight Club*, but the movie is very different from the book and people tend to have different reactions to both.

Are there works that you've written that you don't think could possibly develop into films?

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

Starring: Michael Nyqvist, Noomi Rapace, Lena Endre, Peter Haber
Director: Niels Arden Oplev
Run Time: 152 min.
Rating: Not Rated
Playing at: Charles Theatre



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Vocalist and keyboardist Greta Morgan of Gold Motel brought a touch of folksy charm to MICA's BBOX last Friday.

Walking into the BBOX at the Maryland Institute College of Art is like walking into another world.

The avant-garde steel and glass structure known as the Gateway (part student housing and part performing arts space, BBOX and cafe included) cannot be further from the redbrick Georgian architecture we see at Hopkins.

Gold Motel, the brainchild of former The Hush Sound singer Greta Morgan Salpeter, fit right in with the arts-conscious atmosphere when they came last Friday to play.

As was previously mentioned, performances in *Girl* are fantastic. Nyqvist is perfect as the moderate, contemplative yet ferociously determined reporter.

He is not a typical male lead — macho, overly masculine — but he is a realistic and believable hero. He's not classically good looking, but this only adds to his legitimacy as Blomkvist.

By and large, though, the shining star of the film is Rapace. She brings a fierce sense of gravitas to the character of Lisbeth, provoking both sympathy and intimidation with every step she takes.

Indeed, the movie could have forgone the murder mystery plot and focused solely on Lisbeth's character — it may even have been better. As it is, the entirety of the film serves to compliment Rapace's performance. It more than justifies the film's fantastic title.

Talk has been circulating about an American remake of this film. Whether or not that would be successful is yet to be determined. For now, two recommendations: see the Swedish version and recast Rapace. With all due respect, Kristen Stewart — rumored to be in talks for the role — would never measure up.

CP: I think if my books have an advantage in becoming films it's because they are filled with moments of action. The characters are constantly doing something to further the plot.

There's not a lot of contemplation, there's not a lot of integral life with my characters. They're always doing something that moves the plot forward.

Also my books tend to be short in a way that Ira Levin's books were short, books like *Stepford Wives* and *Rosemary's Baby*.

They were short and the characters were always doing something and that translates to motion pictures which are basically images of people in motion. They have to be moving in order to really exploit the form.

N-L: So what's next for you? You mentioned in an interview that your novel for 2011 will be called *Damned* and that it will involve a young girl trapped in Hell.

CP: There's a long tradition of a kind of innocent character who is thrust into horrible circumstances but doesn't really understand how they came to be there.

Like in *Shawshank Redemption*, the lawyer who finds himself in prison and he's not sure exactly what happened but he's forced to make the best of it.

And it's the same with so many orphan novels like *Pollyanna* where Pollyanna's parents have died before the novel begins and we find Pollyanna shipped off to live with an aunt somewhere far away.

So, in a way, *Damned* is one of those stories where a character is forced to kind of smile and make the best of a bad situation and in doing so finds a way to escape the situation.

N-L: Speaking of movies, how well do you feel that your books translate into film? You have the obvious success of *Fight Club*, but the movie is very different from the book and people tend to have different reactions to both.

Are there works that you've written that you don't think could possibly develop into films?

being in a band with him . . . The other three guys in the band are in this other band together . . . They're from Chicago and the Hush Sound actually took them on our first headlining tour.

Though the group was originally Morgan's idea, lead guitarist Dan Duszynski contributed material as well. The Gold Motel

EP combines the writing they did together. Eventually, each member began to bring more and more to the writing process. Eric Hehr wrote one of their songs, entitled "Safe in L.A."

The current tour launches the cycle of write, record, and tour for Gold Motel, for whom the novelty hasn't yet worn off. The band's tour crisscrosses the nation in two legs — the west coast and east coast — and then heads home to Chicago.

No matter how much they like each other though, the long hours get tiring.

"Sometimes it's really fun. Sometimes it feels like a road trip, and other times it feels like we're locked in a house, and we can't get out and everybody has terrible cabin fever," Morgan said.

Rhythm guitarist Eric Hehr agreed. "People will give guys a bad rap, like, 'Oh, guys are so gross, so disgusting.' These two girls . . . my goodness."

Their friend Emily Serrato tours with them to sell Gold Motel merchandise, which she designs.

As they took the stage for their performance, it was hard to imagine that the band had only been playing together for a little more than four months. Their experience, at least in the music scene, could easily be spotted.

Unlike openers Secret Mountains, they seemed at home on stage, bantering with the crowd

even as they set up. Morgan in particular seemed particularly charmed by her fans.

At one point, she had to restart a song because she was laughing too hard to continue.

Tourmates Family of the Year, too, displayed an easy camaraderie with the students, joking with each other on stage and shouting fond obscenities to Baltimore on the whole.

Where Family of the Year possessed its own brand of folksy charm, Gold Motel's music had an easy-going whimsy that translated well to the small audience and summery atmosphere.

The lyrics were simplistic, but not simple. They borrow "Hurricane" from The Hush Sounds' final album, *Goodbye Blues*, and the evocative near-lament sounded just as melancholic as part of this new creative outlet.

The rest of the songs had a good range to them. Most were upbeat and catchy, though a few fell into a slow, melodic ballads.

Morgan had an earnest appeal that brings to mind good vacation memories — sitting on a beach, goofing off in a roller-rink, eating ice cream.

The guitars and bass did the admirable job of supporting her voice without overwhelming it. That is not to say that they were without their own brilliance, but their presence didn't viciously combat the mellowness of the singer's voice.

The title of their first full-length, *Summer House*, scheduled for release on June 1, aptly captures the essence of their sound.

Gold Motel continues to tour through May 11, before returning to Illinois for their record release. For more information on Gold Motel, visit their website myspace.com/goldmotel.

— Hsia-Ting Chang



COURTESY OF WWW.SOBERINGCONCLUSION.COM

Peter Andersson viciously threatens Noomi Rapace in *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*.

Fight Club mastermind talks new novel, Tell-All

PAHALNIUK, FROM B3

"It sounds like I have some kind of name-dropping form of Tourette Syndrome."

And the way he put it was just so clever and it was such a revealing moment that even celebrities self-censor because they're afraid of being accused of name-dropping.

So they are actually unable to talk about their lives because the people in their lives are all celebrities.

It seemed like such a wonderful paradox that even celebrities are afraid of name-dropping.

N-L: Most of this book reads like a screenplay. Was this sort of a test run for you and can we possibly expect a Chuck Palahniuk screenplay in the future?

CP: No, I just needed a convention for introducing themes and manipulating perspective.

And I think it's interesting that movies, a hundred years ago, you watched a movie, and they used the conventions of fiction writing and novels to tell that cinematic story.

And now we're so familiar with cinematic terms that I thought it would be interesting to use cinematic terms in the verse of a hundred years ago, to use movie terms in order to tell fiction, because we've gotten so sophisticated and so many people know what a swishy-pen is or an eye-line match, things like that.

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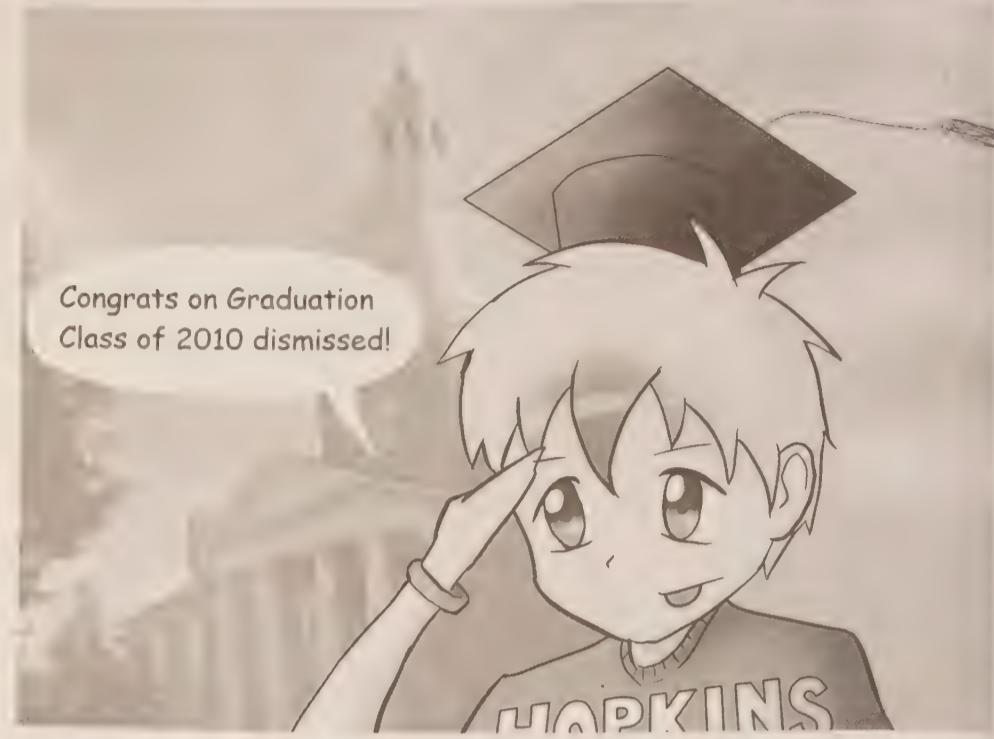
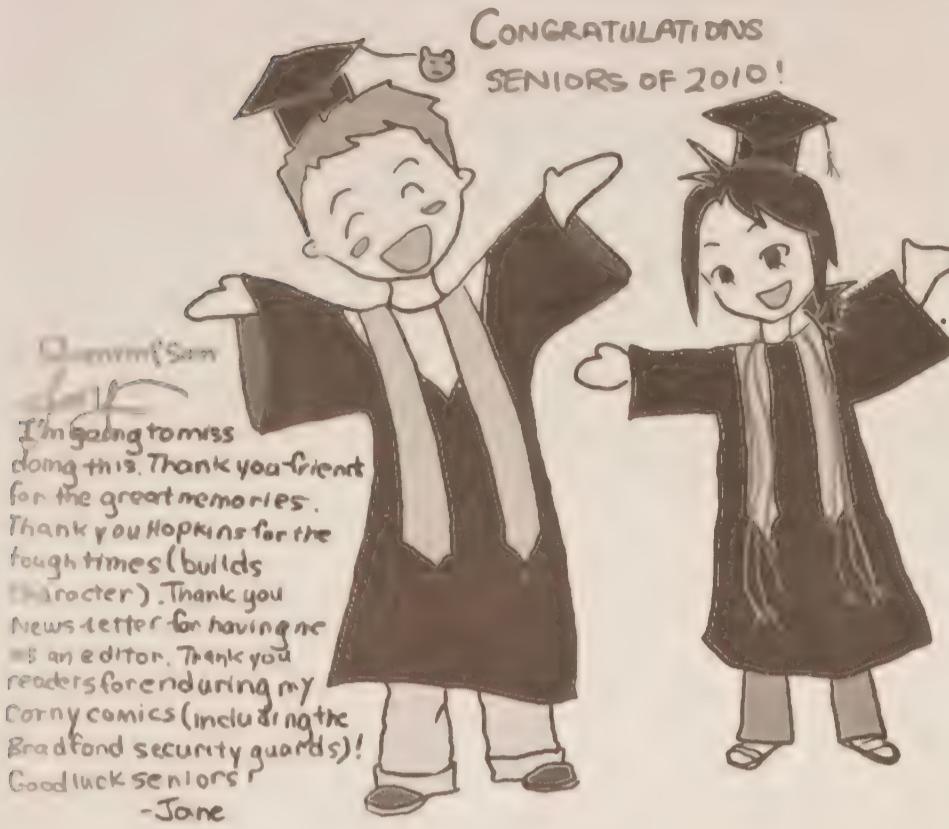
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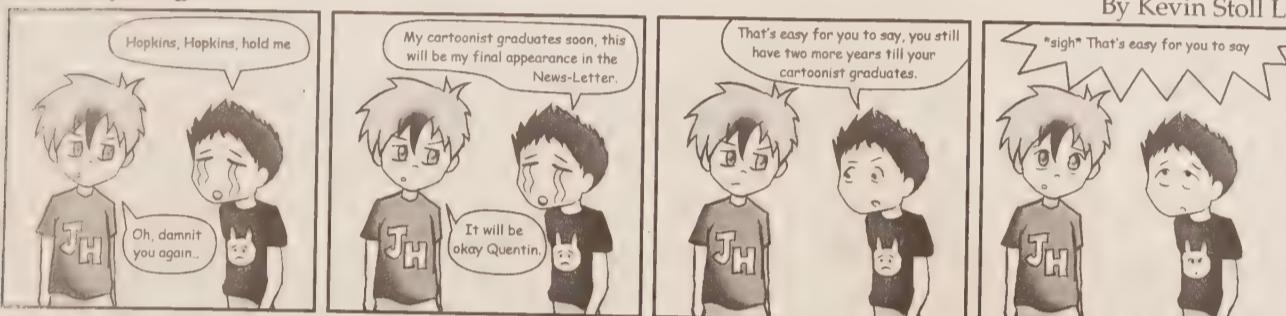
CARTOONS, ETC.

Blue Jay Brigade

By Kevin Stoll Li

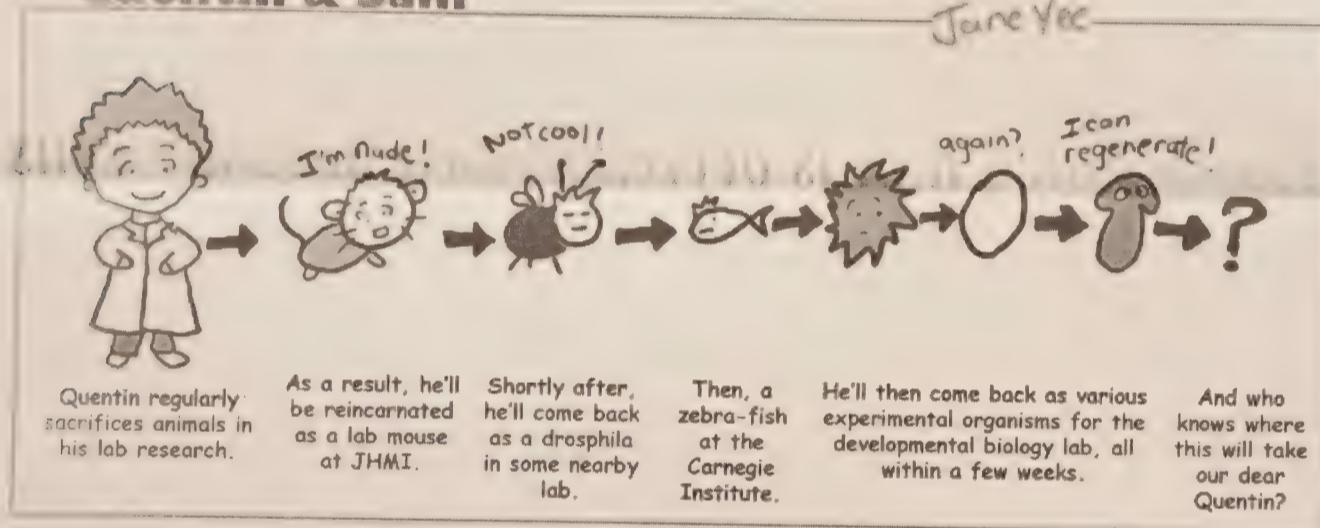


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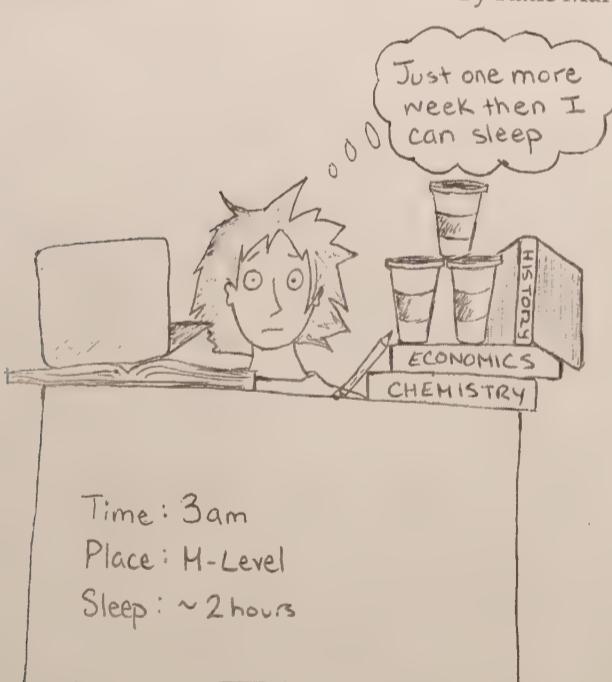
Quentin & Sam



Margin Notes

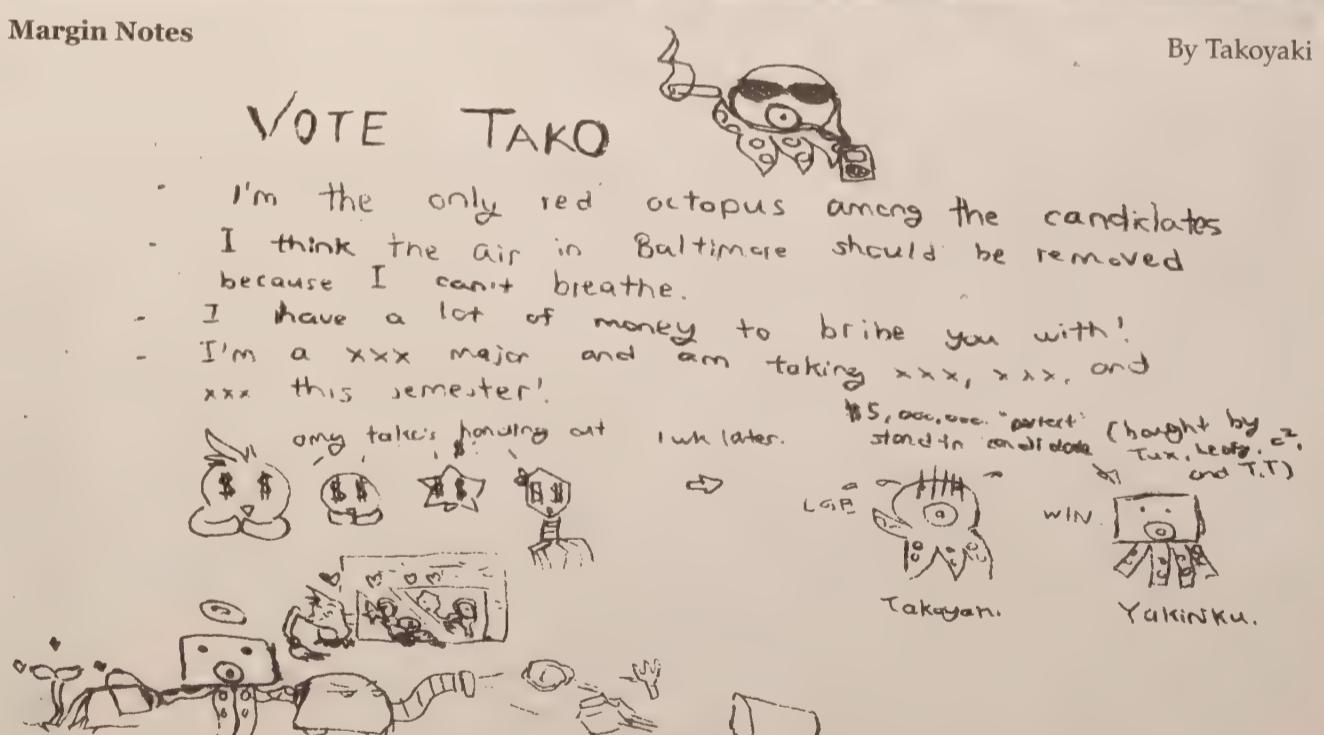
Finals 2010

By Katie Mann



VOTE TAKO

- I'm the only red octopus among the candidates
- I think the air in Baltimore should be removed because I can't breathe.
- I have a lot of money to bribe you with!
- I'm a xxx major and am taking xxx, xxx, and xxx this semester!



By Kevin Stoll Li

Good Night and Good Luck

Go check out these cartoons in full color at www.jhucartoons.deviantart.com

Math Puzzle

By HUSAM (Hopkins Undergraduate Society for Applied Mathematics) and Math Contests' Steven R. Conrad

Giving your answer in simplest form what is the value of $(987654321)(987654321) - (987654323)(987654319)$?

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Third parent is the charm for mitochondrial disease

By ALEX LIU
Staff Writer

Scientists at Newcastle University in the U.K. have created human embryos from the genetic material of not one, not two, but three donors. The goal of such a modification was to solve the problem of mitochondrial disease.

There are a group of diseases called mitochondrial diseases which are associated with a number of clinical features," Professor of Neurology at Newcastle University and senior author of the paper Douglas Turnbull wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. These are very variable and often associated with major neurological, heart and muscle problems."

Mitochondrial disease is maternally transmitted, as during reproduction, paternal mitochondria are ubiquinated and later destroyed. According to Turnbull, current treatments for mitochondrial diseases are symptomatic, with few lasting solutions for patients. "The age at onset is also very variable but may be early in life. These can be very serious diseases with death in infancy or early childhood," he wrote.

In past studies, scientists had transferred animal pronuclei (or the nucleus of an egg or sperm cell after fertilization, but before they fuse with each other) from an embryo with defective mitochondria to one with healthy mitochondria. However, up until this paper, this had not been achieved in humans.

The new procedure, which was outlined recently in an April publication of *Nature*, involves three zygotes (the first cell formed after fertilization) from three different people being used to create an embryo. According to the paper, the pronuclei from two zygotes were transferred into a third recipient zygote whose nucleus had been removed. The final product contained nuclear DNA from two parents and mitochondrial DNA from a third subject (since the pronuclei were transferred without their cytoplasm).



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Transferring zygote pronuclei could prevent mitochondrial disease.

dures each year in the United States. Cardiac bypass surgery is a major operation, usually lasting between two and six hours, and involves exposing the heart to allow the surgeon to have access to the organ while blood circulation and breathing functions are taken over by a heart-lung machine.

After this setup is complete, the cardiac surgeon uses a piece of vein or artery to form a bypass to enable blood to circumvent the blocked portion of the artery. Cardiac bypass surgery is a high-risk surgery that can cause many complications.

Blood flow to the brain during cardiac bypass surgery is dependent upon both the blood flow auto-regulation mechanism and upon the patient's blood pressure. However, once the blood flow auto-regulation mechanisms fail, the patient's blood flow to the brain becomes completely dependent on the patient's blood pressure. The patient's blood pressure may not be stable enough directly following the surgery to provide adequate blood flow to the brain, increasing the risk of stroke.

The first cardiac bypass surgery was performed around 50 years ago, and currently cardiac surgeons perform more than 500,000 cardiac bypass proce-

By ANN WANG
Science & Technology Editor

The group also explored methods that minimized the carry-over of donor mitochondrial DNA by reducing the amount of cytoplasm transferred during the nuclear transplantation process. They did this by identifying unique sequences in mitochondrial DNA from each zygote and measuring portions of these sequences in the resulting blastocysts.

While this new procedure does have potential, it still requires further investigation. Of the 80 embryos used in this study, eight progressed to the blastocyst stage, which is comprised of up to 100 cells, in six days. 10 out of 44, or 22.7 percent, of zygotes receiving one transferred pronucleus and eight out of 36, or 22.2 percent, of zygotes receiving two transferred pronuclei developed to more than eight cells. While this turnout rate is low, the cells used to create the embryos were suboptimal for successful development, as they were leftover cells from in vitro fertilization clinics. The group currently seeks to pursue this topic with more scrutiny.

"[The success rate] is something we need to evaluate — our studies were in abnormal zygotes — so with normal eggs [it] should be easier," Turnbull wrote. "We have applied for a license to look at both safety and efficiency of the technique."

The overall results of this paper, however, show that one could possibly prevent the transmission of mitochondrial disease using such methods. Such results are groundbreaking given that there is no cure for these diseases.

In addition to scientific questions, such results also raise many ethical questions that may affect its future development. While we could potentially prevent mitochondrial disease, for example, such intervention may not necessarily be ethically sound. Apart from this, other issues could arise. Issues as to who is the parent, whether the mitochondrial donor would be considered a parent, and how to obtain healthy mitochondria donors also exist.

"The ethical issues are challenging and consist with concerns about any form of IVF treatment... to whether we are justified in trying to prevent these diseases," Turnbull said.

"The other ethical side is whether we should stop the potential for mothers having normal children."

127 adult patients over the age of 45 receiving cardiac bypass surgery. These patients spent two hours on a heart-lung machine and underwent the standard cooling to below 34 degrees Celsius and then rewarming to a normal body temperature of 37 degrees. Eleven other patients who did not need to undergo cooling because they received briefer bypass operations served as the control group.

Following the surgery, none of the control patients experienced any neurological problems, while seven of the standard group had strokes. One experienced a transient ischemic attack, or TIA, a brief episode of inadequate oxygenated blood flow to the brain. Commonly referred to as a mini-stroke, a TIA is a precursor to an actual stroke. Both the cooling and rewarming phases of the process were shown to have negative effects on the patient's ability to reach a stable condition.

Joshi's team noted that since this cooling and rewarming of the patient's body to protect the organs during bypass surgery may only do harm by damaging

the auto-regulatory mechanisms of the body as well as increasing the risk of stroke, it may be worth exploring whether this process can be excluded entirely from the surgery — especially since there is little evidence that this practice is even necessary.

Despite the early findings this study has provided, further investigation is needed. Joshi and his colleagues expressed the need to look into the exact causes of the malfunction in the brain's blood flow regulation mechanism. Additionally, they expressed the need for a blood flow detecting device that will allow surgeons to follow the blood flow in the brain in real time.

To address this immediate concern, this group of researchers has been designing a monitoring device using near infrared spectroscopy that would measure blood flow to the brain in real time for a patient who is undergoing bypass surgery. If such a monitoring device were to be successfully developed, it would allow doctors to quickly adjust blood pressure to pump more blood to the brain when the brain is receiving inadequate blood.

This study looked at data from

Hubble telescope celebrates 20th anniversary

ning of this year he was appointed deputy director of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

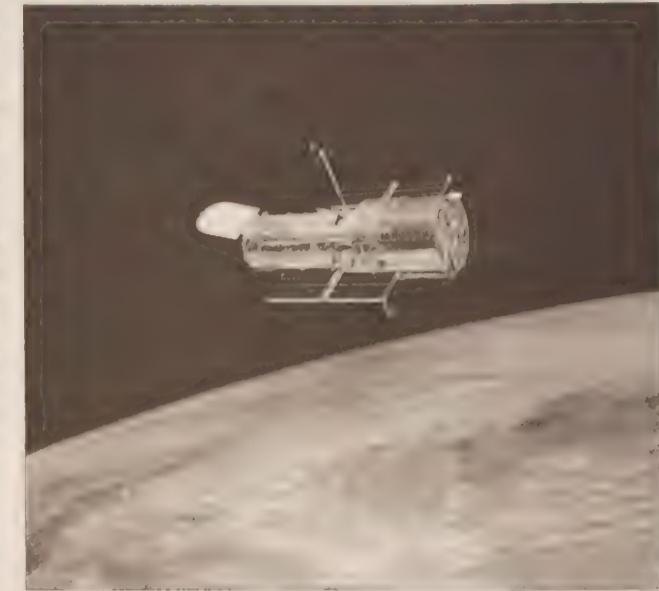
Although, at 2.4 meters in diameter, Hubble's primary mirror is not very big, the quality of its images is partly due to its position above the distorting influence of earth's atmosphere.

The first part of Grunsfeld's talk focused on last May's mission replace or repair many of Hubble's aging instruments in an effort to extend the observatory's lifespan.

He showed video footage of the space shuttle's takeoff, and of the painstaking work it took to replace the delicate instruments, some of which had been operating since Hubble was first launched. The audience also saw footage of the astronauts, three of whom had never been on a spaceflight before, in their down time, preparing dinner in zero gravity.

During the mission, the astronauts orbited the earth 197 times (Hubble orbits the earth every 97 minutes) and completed five spacewalks. The mission was a resounding success, and accomplished all of its goals.

The second part of Grunsfeld's talk focused on the scientific data that different instruments on Hubble are able to collect. The new Wide Field Camera 3 camera installed during this last mission



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Hubble was released back into space after its final servicing mission last year.

can detect infrared radiation. This allows the Hubble, for example, to peer through nebula, giant clouds of dust and gas where stars are born, to see the newborn stars themselves. This is a brand-new capability that Grunsfeld expects will have many applications.

The also newly installed Cosmic Origins Spectrograph will let scientists analyze the chemical composition of far-away objects such as quasars and supernovas, giving us a glimpse of the universe's and our solar system's first moments.

Although some of this data was more technical, Grunsfeld was able to put it in perspective. After asking the audience to take a deep breath, he said, "Every atom of oxygen you just breathed in was formed inside a star. To account for our human

bodies, we had to be processed through two or three supernova explosions before there was enough heavy chemical elements to form our solar system and us."

Grunsfeld also dispelled the legend that the Great Wall of China is the only human-made structure visible from space. In fact, the Great Wall is almost impossible to see because it is built from the same stone as the ground it sits on. However, many other human-made structures, as well as human-caused phenomena like forest fires, are visible.

"Hubble's mission is really just beginning," Grunsfeld said. The next 10 or even 20 years will be Hubble's best in terms of collecting data and advancing our knowledge of the far reaches of the universe.

Untranslated RNA is overexpressed in tumor cells

By SAM OHMER
Staff Writer

New research has found that regions of DNA that are not made into protein nevertheless play a key role in maintaining the structure of our chromosomes, and that their malfunction can lead to tumors.

Some of the mysterious regions of the human genome that many scientists believed to be junk or evolutionary remnants are actually quite active — especially when it comes to their role in the cell cycle and even cancer.

Fighting cancer is a number one priority, not only for doctors and their patients, but also for researchers like Rajnish Gupta and Howard Chang of the Howard Hughes Institute and Saraswati Sukumar of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. As researchers, however, these scientists focus on different aspects of the disease than would

patients or doctors. For researchers, the key to beating cancer is learning about how cancer arises — the mechanisms that go wrong, the proteins involved, the genes that are mutated or deleted.

The human genome is very large, but only a very small percentage of the information contained within the genome actually contains the right "codes" to promote the production of proteins. Some of the DNA regions that do not code for proteins still do get transcribed into RNA, however.

As RNA is kind of like the runner for DNA, if a piece of DNA manages to get transcribed to RNA, it must be important somehow — which is in fact the case for a special type of RNA called long intervening non-coding RNA (lncRNA). LncRNA (or at least one type of it) seems to be involved with regulation of DNA expression via modulation of DNA structuring.

DNA can be a huge molecule — many, many times the length of a single cell — so it must be incredibly compacted in order to fit neatly into the even tinier nucleus. This process is enabled by the work of many proteins that bind and help fold up the DNA into a compact, orderly and manageable form. And lncRNA seems to be able to interact not only with the DNA, but also with the structuring proteins themselves — making lncRNAs a possible link between the chromosomal dysfunctions sometimes seen in cancer cells and the specific aberrant phenotypes those cells assume.

Though lncRNAs in general happen to fulfill this very broad role, Gupta and colleagues are particularly interested in one very specific lncRNA known as HOTAIR. The lncRNA HOTAIR is over-expressed in some cancer cells, especially in breast cancer.

The over-expression leads to hyper-restructuring of the chromosomes in a way that is very bad for the organism in which all this is taking place. The remodeled chromosomes somehow promote cell motility — a huge problem, especially in the case of cancer, where motility means metastasis — and therefore the spread of the cancer throughout the body.

This massive remodeling seems to be best linked to changes in the presence of the Polycomb repressive complex 2 (PRC2), according to Gupta's team. PRC2 is an enzyme that can make small changes to DNA-structuring proteins that can help regulate whether or not the genes associated with the structuring proteins

are expressed or not.

In breast cancer, PRC2 appears to be pushed into a pattern unlike that seen in normal, healthy cells. Instead, the PRC2 assumes a DNA-association pattern more like that of embryonic fibroblasts, cells capable of great migrations and lots of divisions — two of the worst properties for aberrant (cancerous) cells to possess.

The reason for this seems to be that parts of the PRC2 are associating with genes they never do under normal circumstances. Additionally, other genes that are normally interacting with the PRC2 stop doing so. The consequence is that different gene expression patterns emerge, with different protein products and cell fates resulting. As many of the new proteins increase the rate of cancer metastasis, this is bad news for sure.

Although this all sounds very doom and gloom, there is an upside to this finding: Now that scientists have definitive proof that HOTAIR is linked biochemically to cancer metastasis, with proper screening for HOTAIR, a patient's chances of metastasis can be assessed and addressed, leading to more personalized and better-fitting therapies and treatments.

This is especially helpful, as some of Gupta's results suggest that HOTAIR may promote metastasis to the lungs at a slightly higher rate. As lung cancer holds the moniker of having the worst survival rate amongst the most common types of cancer, knowing that a patient is at high risk for metastasis — specifically, metastasis to the lungs — doctors can target the tumors sooner and more effectively before they have a chance to grow, spread and do even more damage.

Furthermore, because HOTAIR and PRC2 are so intimately connected and codependent, they provide a dual therapeutic strategy: High levels of either HOTAIR or PRC2 indicate cells where interference with either of them will be highly effective anti-cancer strategies.

Cooling patient during cardiac bypass surgery may cause stroke

By BARBARA HA
Staff Writer

The common procedure of cooling a patient's body before cardiac bypass surgery and then rewarming it to normal temperature after the operation in order to prevent organ damage has recently come under close scrutiny.

New research from the Hopkins School of Medicine found that this procedure of cooling and then rewarming the patient may cause complications in the control of blood flow to the brain, increasing the patient's risk of stroke.

The research was done at the Hopkins School of Medicine and was led by Brijen Joshi from the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. Their study, published in the journal *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, reported that as many as five percent of cardiac bypass patients usually wake up from surgery with significant loss of controlled movement or speech from suffering through a stroke.

The first cardiac bypass surgery was performed around 50 years ago, and currently cardiac surgeons perform more than 500,000 cardiac bypass proce-

dures each year in the United States. Cardiac bypass surgery is a major operation, usually lasting between two and six hours, and involves exposing the heart to allow the surgeon to have access to the organ while blood circulation and breathing functions are taken over by a heart-lung machine.

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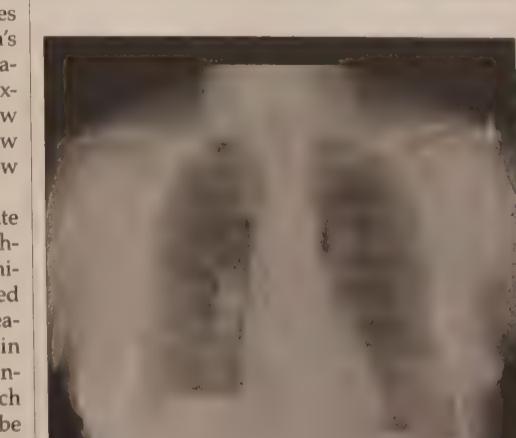
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A specific RNA sequence may increase metastasis to the lungs.

Compound in wine may protect against stroke

By HUSAIN DANISH
Magazine Editor

For years, scientists have promoted the health benefits of red wine. Numerous studies have shown that moderate consumption of red wine can help protect against certain cancers and heart disease, and can have a positive effect on blood pressure and cholesterol. Red wine has also been found to help protect the brain during a stroke. However, the key to red wine's protective powers has remained a mystery.

Now, researchers at the Hopkins Medical School say they have discovered the compound in red wine that may protect the brain from damage following a stroke.

Red wine is loaded with antioxidants, which play a big role in the prevention of disease. Researchers decided to focus most of their attention to a specific antioxidant found in red wine: resveratrol.

Produced in response to infection by bacteria and fungi, resveratrol is a naturally produced antimicrobial drug in plants. While sold as a nutritional supplement, the actual health benefits of resveratrol remain uncertain. Touted as an anti-aging drug, there is little evidence that resveratrol actually extends the lifespan of any organism. In mouse studies, resveratrol has been shown to have anti-cancer and other health benefits. Most of these benefits have yet to be observed in humans.

In the experiment, conducted by Sylvain Doré, an associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine and pharmacology and molecular sciences at the Hopkins School of Medicine, mice were fed a single modest dose of resveratrol. Two hours after consuming the compound, researchers induced an ischemic stroke by cutting off the blood supply to the animal's brain. Doré found that animals that had consumed resveratrol suffered significantly less brain damage than the animals that had not been given the compound.

According to Doré, resveratrol increases the level of an enzyme called heme oxygenase, which plays a critical role in protecting nerve cells in the brain from damage.

"I have been quite interested in heme oxygenase for quite sometime," Doré said. "We were looking for compounds that could modulate heme oxygenase activity. We screened several of the compounds found in red wine and found that resveratrol modulated expression of heme oxygenase."

Polyphenols like resveratrol are known to act as antioxidants," Doré said. "However, in this case, resveratrol is taking [on] additional roles."

According to Doré, the key to resveratrol's ability to protect the brain from a stroke is not its antioxidant properties but its ability to activate the cell's own mechanisms to protect itself from oxidants.

If resveratrol worked as an oxidant in a one-to-one ratio, there would not nearly be enough to protect the brain during a stroke," Doré said. "By increasing the expression of heme oxygenase, resveratrol boosts the cell's ability to protect itself from oxidation."

Future studies will seek to determine the minimum amount of resveratrol needed to protect the brain from damage during a stroke.

"Resveratrol is necessary to

increase expression of heme oxygenase, a natural system already present in the cell," Doré said. "A moderate amount is probably sufficient to get the full benefits."

Doré also noted that the alco-

hol in wine may play a role in protecting the brain against a stroke.

"Alcohol is a natural solvent that can dissolve resveratrol," Doré said. "It is probably important in concentration resveratrol inside the cells."

Resveratrol, found in red wine, increases levels of an enzyme that shields nerves from damage.

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Infectious fungus feasts on sugar in brains

By KATHERINE TAN
Staff Writer

If you are planning on staying alert by riding on a constant sugar high during the upcoming finals period, think again. A recent study by Duke University researchers revealed a possible cause of various brain fungal infections, including the much-dreaded meningitis: Saturation of the sugar inositol in the brain.

The research team of eight, led by head researcher Chaoyang Xue, published their findings in the first issue of *mBio*, a new online, open-access microbiology journal. This research was done in the lab of Joseph Heitman, the James B. Duke Professor and Chair for the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology.

The Heitman lab has been studying the human fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus*, which is found in abundance, especially in the human brain. Although many people can have harmless colonies of the pathogen in their

bodies, those with compromised immune systems are at risk for much more serious complications, such as diseases in the brain, spinal cord and lungs.

Besides thriving in the brain, this fungus has also adapted to parasitize plants in the wild. As wild plants are rich in inositol, a sugar only mildly sweet in taste, the research team began to suspect the relationship between inositol and the survival of the bacteria *Cryptococcus*.

"Our studies provide evidence that [the use of inositol by *Cryptococcus*] is both in the context of plants in nature, and in the host, where inositol levels in the brain and CSF are high," Heitman wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

The research team used quantitative real-time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction, a technique commonly used by most biologists in research to amplify genetic material), managing to identify the genes of the fungus *Cryptococcus*. The *Cryptococcus* fungus is observed to have an expanded set of genes that encodes for sugar transporter molecules.

While a typical fungus has just two such genes, *Cryptococcus* has almost a dozen.

"A connection between the high concentration of free inositol and fungal infection in the human brain is suggested by our studies," Xue, now an assistant professor at the Public Health Research Institute at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, said in an interview with *Science Daily*. The abundance of inositol in the human brain and the cerebral fluid (the fluid that bathes and surrounds the brain and the spinal cord) could be the reason *Cryptococcus* infects the brain and causes cerebral diseases, such as meningitis.

The borrowing and consumption of inositol aids *Cryptococcus* in its reproduction. The initial cryptococcal infection is usually caused by the inhalation of sexual spores or desiccated yeast cells from the environment. The fungus has a large myo-inositol transporter (ITR) gene family, which provides it with the machinery to actively transport sugar from its environment into the inside of its cells. This sugar then stimulates the sexual reproduction of *Cryptococcus*, providing mating surfaces for the cells to reproduce.

The researchers declared this finding to be extremely vital to the control of the multiplication of this fungus, as scientists could use the new findings to target the fungi, putting them on a low-sugar diet. Deprived of sugar, these fungi might not be able to reproduce sexually and multiply, rendering them unable to bring diseases to the organisms they reside in.

"In terms of therapies, one can envision identifying . . . a receptor for inositol," Heitman wrote.

"The goal then would be to identify small molecular antagonists

of this receptor . . . that would impact the growth or survival of the fungus in the context of an infected patient."

"What we hope to accomplish," Heitman wrote, "is to define unique specializations of microbial pathogens that distinguish them in some way from the host that then represent the molecular equivalent of an Achilles heel that might be a target for therapy."



COURTESY OF INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Protein affecting feeding in fruit fly taste buds identified

By ALICE HUNG
Staff Writer

The protein that functions in fruit flies' sensory cells to detect a specific chemical in the environment, in turn altering the animal's eating behavior, has been identified.

Along with his research team, Craig Montell, a member of the Hopkins Center for Sensory Biology, found that fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) require the presence of a functional TRPA1 protein in their taste cells in order to detect aristolochic acid — a natural toxic chemical produced by plants for self-defense.

Surprisingly, this protein responds specifically to aristolochic acid, and doesn't seem to play a role in detecting anything else. Mammals, on the other hand, have one TRP channel that responds to all sugars and bitter chemicals.

The team genetically modified a normal TRPA1 gene, confirming the protein's production in the fly's major taste organ (the labellum), and its production in sensory cells specific to identifying noxious chemicals in foods.

Between 50 to 100 flies of the mutant (TRPA1 gene knocked out) and wild type (normal TRPA1 gene) flies were starved and subsequently placed in covered plates with 72 wells with two concentrations of sugar water. Wells with high concentration of sugar water were also laced with various bitter compounds, such as caffeine, strychnine and aristolochic acid. The pure sugar water was dyed red, while the laced waters were colored blue.

Normally, flies prefer waters with higher concentrations of

sugar. However, if the sweeter water is contaminated with an adverse flavor, flies choose the water with less sugar.

After freezing and separating the flies by their belly color (red, blue or purple), it was found that the wild type flies had mostly red bellies, showing that they chose the less sugary water because the sweeter water was tainted with other noxious chemicals.

The mutant type, by contrast, had mostly blue bellies from drinking water laced with aristolochic acid. Surprisingly, the mutant flies avoided all other waters with bitter compounds other than aristolochic acid. The study indicates that flies are specifically unable to detect aristolochic acid without a functional TRPA1 protein.

Additional electrophysiology tests were conducted to further support the results. Electrodes were attached to taste hairs of the labellum in order to measure taste-induced electrical activity of sensory neurons. The researchers concluded that TRPA1 was necessary to initiate aristolochic acid-induced activity in neurons, thus triggering avoidance of that particular food source.

Montell had previously discovered other TRP channels in flies, and his team had noted their abundance in sensory cells. It was known that the channels function by affecting the flux of calcium and sodium in and out of the cells, thus affecting the activation of action potentials and subsequent responses in neurons.

This discovery may play a crucial role in preventing crop damage caused by insects.

Normally, flies prefer waters with higher concentrations of

lightning is approximately 190 miles long.

The Cassini-Huygens Project has been one of NASA's most successful enterprises. It was originally scheduled to be funded for only four years, but after its initial success, NASA extended funding for two more years into September 2010. In February of this year, another extension was approved through the summer of 2017. At that time, NASA expects Cassini to run out of its propellant and then complete approximately 22 more orbits as it spirals inward, pulled in by Saturn's massive gravitational force. It will eventually crash onto Saturn's surface.

The extensions have come with several challenges. Currently, Cassini only has about 22 percent of its original propellant, because it was never expected to be collecting data for over four years. Scientists at NASA are now faced with the challenge of how to keep Cassini orbiting on the low volume of propellant it has remaining, while still satisfying the need for information on Saturn and its rings and moons.

The most plausible solution is the use of a maneuver called the gravity assist. As an object nears a planet or moon, the gravitational field grabs hold of it and then essentially "flings" it away with a new-found momentum, provided by the gravitational force.

Since gravitational force of an object increases with its mass, Titan, Saturn's largest moon, will be the most likely source of the gravity assist.

Since entering orbit, the Cassini spacecraft has discovered two new rings around Saturn, seven new moons, numerous moonlets, liquid lakes on Titan and cyclones at Saturn's poles. The Cassini probe also successfully landed its companion vessel, the Huygens probe, on Titan's surface.

But the Cassini probe is not limited only to providing information on Saturn. During its trip to the gas giant, it did several flybys and gave valuable information on the orbits and nature of Venus, Jupiter and our moon. It was also able to test out the validity of Einstein's famous Theory of General Relativity using radio waves that were emitted from a source on the Cassini spacecraft.

The information provided by Cassini is so expansive that the

New York Times estimates that all the information sent back by the probe is enough to produce more than 1,400 scientific papers.

Cassini's latest achievement is a visual image of the lightning flashes of a massive storm on the far side of Saturn. This hemisphere of the planet, like the far side of the Moon, is permanently turned away from Earth due to the nature of its

orbit. An image of anything on that hemisphere is an achievement unto itself.

The image was captured on a video lasting approximately 16 minutes, during which bright flashes of lightning can be seen among the dark regions of the storm. The storm is 1,900 miles long at its longest and is only visible because of its reflection off of Saturn's rings. Each flash

of lightning is approximately 190 miles long.

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COURTESY OF PHOTOJOURNAL.JPL.NASA.GOV

Cassini space probe captures new images of lightning, storms on Saturn

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

For the first time, scientists studying the planet Saturn have been able to see the lightning flashes of a large storm on the far side of Saturn's surface, thanks to the Cassini spacecraft, currently in orbit around our solar system's second-largest planet.

The Cassini space probe, designed and built by NASA, was launched into space along with the Huygens probe, constructed by the European Space Agency, on Oct. 15, 1997. It entered Saturn's gravitational field on July 1, 2004, and since then it has been orbiting the planet at a distance outside of its famed rings.

The Cassini-Huygens Project is a joint effort of the United States and sixteen European countries with the stated objective of investigating the nature of Saturn's rings and two most intriguing moons: Titan, which is the only moon in the solar system to have its own atmosphere, and Iapetus, whose surface has a distinct two-tone coloration causing one hemisphere to appear white and the other to appear green.

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The information provided by Cassini is so expansive that the

Apocalypse (probably not) now

In spite of perceived recent surge in natural disasters, scientists assert that it is nothing new

By ALEENA LAKHANPAL
Staff Writer

The Mayans said the world would end in December 2012, and as that date approaches, many people are beginning to suspect an impending apocalypse in light of recent tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

However, a recent statement from the Global Volcanism Project (GVP) urges people not to jump to such dire conclusions. "We believe that this represents an increased reporting of eruptions, rather than increased frequency of global volcanism," the GVP said on its website.

Here at Hopkins, both Bruce Marsh and Peter Olson firmly agree with the GVP's relatively comforting use of common sense.

"Eruptions happen all of the time," said Marsh, a professor in the Earth and Planetary Sciences department who has worked in volcanism for 40 years and focuses on sub-surface controls.

Olson, also a professor in the department and a geophysicist who teaches a course on natural disasters, commented that the most visually salient aspects of volcanic eruptions are not the most damaging. "Molten rock

when the tectonic plates suddenly moved," Marsh said. "The Chilean earthquake wasn't caused by a volcano either, even though the country is surrounded by regions with volcanoes. That earthquake, again, was related to sudden tectonic movements."

Olson also cited undersea activity as a major contributor to natural disasters. "Along the mid-ocean ridges, new ocean crust is being created all of the time from magma at a rate of 18 cubic kilometers per year worldwide," he said.

Seafloor spreading can be linked to recent disastrous earthquakes, such as those in Chile, Indonesia and, most recently, Haiti. "There is a big connection between earthquakes and undersea activity, [but] that doesn't lead to a close connection between the eruption of one volcano at Point A and an earthquake at Point B

disaster like that. Port-au-Prince — it's the poster city for an earthquake," he said. "In the news a while ago, you'll see that a school there collapsed for no reason other than shoddy construction. So if the schools are falling apart for no reason, imagine the vulnerability to an earthquake."

The actual magnitude of the Haitian earthquake should also be put into perspective. Although it may seem as though the ratings of each quake are quite similar, measurements of earthquake on the Richter scale, are not proportional to the size of the tremor. In other words, a magnitude 8.0 quake is not twice as strong as a 4.0 quake, but is instead 10,000 times its strength.

"Two weeks later, there was an even bigger earthquake on the border between Mexico and California, but that wasn't a disaster. Neither was the Chilean earthquake, and that was 100 times larger than the Haitian earthquake," he said. "It's like a perfect storm combination."

Both Olson and Marsh maintain that the earth is chugging along as it has been for its entire history and that there is no need to worry about the so-called end of the earth.

"Every generation has people that firmly believe that the end of the world is coming — it's a basic insecurity of human beings," Marsh said.

In the same vein, Marsh emphasized that although these natural disasters may be just that to humans, to the Earth, it's a way of life. "All of these processes that represent hazards to us are in one way or another integral to the way the world works, so you just have to take the bad with the good," he said.

So instead of fearing the end of the world in 2012, it is important to bear in mind that these recent events are examples of geological events that have occurred all throughout the earth's history. "They should take some courses in geology," Marsh said. "They need to understand the earth a little bit."

The rise in volcanic events is likely due to greater reporting, rather than activity.

COURTESY OF WWW.VOLCANO.SLEDU

lava is the most spectacular component of volcanic eruptions," Olson said. Other products, however, such as dust and ash, can be far worse. "In class, I often use the term 'it's the dust that kills,'" he said.

"It's very hard to measure volcanic eruptions, but you can measure the amount of material coming out," Marsh said, "and there are many different kinds of eruptions." Only some of these eruptions affect the rest of the globe.

"The kind of eruption that affects other natural disasters is comprised of volcanoes that have ice and snow on them, and when the magma comes up to the surface, that material gets mobilized, and it then mobilizes other materials," Marsh said. "Then the atmosphere heats up, so you get a lot of rainfall, and then next thing you know, you've got a mudslide."

The recent eruption in Iceland, for example, was actually a somewhat unremarkable eruption. But, according to Marsh, there was enough ice capping the volcano to create an atmospheric ash cloud over parts of Europe, which was the most debilitating aspect of the event.

The volcano in Iceland is on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and Iceland happens to be a big buildup of land, so when the magma came up and hit the ice, it underwent a very explosive reaction — it was a series of very bad interactions," Marsh said.

"This was a minor eruption of ash and dust, and as far as we know, no one has been physically injured," Olson said. "But it's still cost three or four billion dollars to try to fix, and it screwed up hundreds of flights around the world."

But most of the recent disasters are not anything like the Icelandic volcano eruption. "The Indonesian earthquake was because



COURTESY OF WWW.INHABITAT.COM
Though the Chilean quake was strong, it caused less damage.

If you look at the earth 1,000 years ago . . . there were plenty of eruptions in Europe, but the world had no idea.

— BRUCE MARSH,
PROFESSOR OF EARTH
AND PLANETARY
SCIENCES

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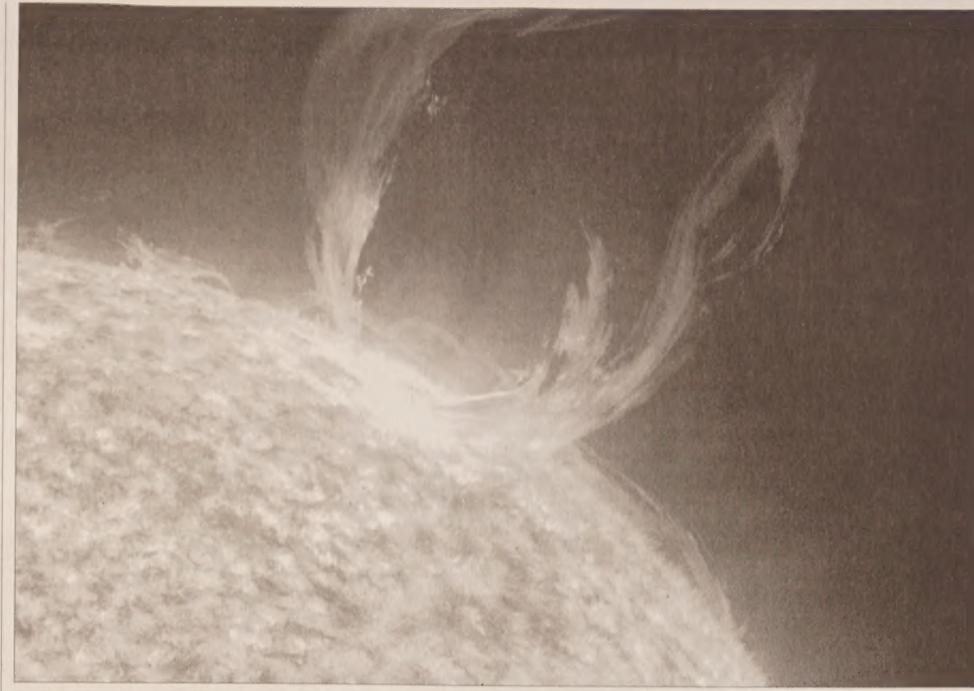
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The Solar Dynamics Observatory, launched on Feb. 11 on a five-year mission, has already captured stunning views of solar activity.

New NASA spacecraft heads for the sun

By DAN CADEL
Staff Writer

A new mission by NASA, the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) of the Living With a Star (LWS) program, is investigating how the sun's changing magnetic field operates and why those changes affect the Earth in the way they do.

The sun is one of Earth's most valuable resources. It provides a constant supply of light and heat, enabling life even at its most fundamental form. Surprisingly, though, humans know relatively little about some aspects of the sun. Historically, the sun was viewed as a god by many ancient civilizations. Later, people believed it to be orbiting the earth. Eventually, the heliocentric model

of the solar system was adopted, and increasingly advanced technology allowed for better observation of the sun.

The sun generates a magnetic field that influences much of the solar activity observed on Earth.

Solar wind, a stream of charged particles from the sun's outer layers, contributes to solar interference in electronics.

According to the mission's website, "SDO will study how solar activity is created and how space weather comes from that activity. Measurements of the interior of the sun, the sun's magnetic field, the hot plasma of the solar corona and the irradiance that creates the ionospheres of the planets are our primary data products."

SDO was launched on February 11 of this year from Cape Canaveral, at an initial weight of 6800 pounds, and measuring about seven by fifteen feet. The satellite carries three instruments: the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA), Extreme Ultraviolet Variability Experiment (EVE) and Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager (HMI).

Developed by the Lockheed

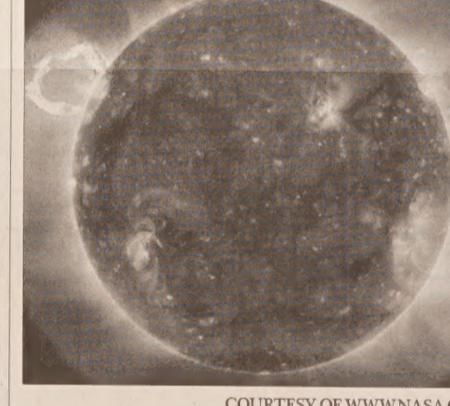
Martin Solar Astrophysics Laboratory, the AIA takes data at 10 different wavelengths at 10 second intervals in order to study the relation between changes on the sun's surface and the sun's interior.

The EVE, built at the University of Colorado Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, measures extreme ultraviolet radiation with high resolution in order to characterize its effects on Earth. The HMI, developed by the Stanford University Solar Group, studies changes in the sun's magnetic field.

Previous solar missions conducted by NASA include the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) and the Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO). SOHO was launched in December 1995 and built mostly in Europe. STEREO was launched in October 2006 and studies the sun in three dimensions. Its data is used to anticipate when solar ejections will reach the Earth.

The SDO mission's instrumentation has resolutions greater than both of these previous missions: SDO takes images once per second, while STEREO records images once every three minutes at half of SDO's resolution, and SOHO once every 12 minutes with one quarter of SDO's resolution.

The first images from the mission taken and sent back to Earth were revealed on April 21 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.



COURTESY OF WWW.NASA.GOV
Solar activity that reaches Earth can interfere with electronics.

Dopamine makes Japanese quail have sex on the brain

By ANN WANG
Science & Technology Editor

New research suggests that the neurotransmitter dopamine may play a key role in controlling male sexual arousal in vertebrates.

Experiments done on Japanese quail showed that dopamine levels in the brain rose when the male birds were in the presence of a female, even before any copulation occurred, but only if the male eventually attempted copulation.

In males, dopamine affects sexual arousal in an area of the brain called the medial preoptic area (mPOA). The mPOA is located in the hypothalamus, a region directly above the brain stem that is probably best known for controlling body temperature, regulating the circadian cycles and maintaining homeostasis. Although larger in males, the mPOA exists in both genders, and is also responsible for the region that is probably best known for controlling body temperature, regulating the circadian cycles and maintaining homeostasis.

Previous experiments established that the mPOA plays a key role in coordinating and enhancing male sexual behavior, and that dopamine is the neurotransmitter that acts in the mPOA. However, these studies were done mainly using rodent models, and were unable to determine exactly what role dopamine played in male sexual behavior.

It has been questioned whether dopamine is specifically related to the occurrence of male sexual behavior and not simply involved in general arousal," Hayley Kleitz Nelson, a member of Hopkins' Department of Psy-

chological and Brain Sciences and the lead author of the study, said in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

The dopamine signaling system used in the mPOA has a very similar structure in many different species of animals. Dopamine is widely used as a neurotransmitter in the brain and seems to play a role in reward prediction.

Neurons release dopamine when an action repeatedly leads to a reward, effectively teaching the brain what behaviors will be rewarded and reinforcing good behavior. High levels of dopamine flooding through the brain can eventually build up tolerance in the neurotransmitter's receptors, leading to addiction to drugs or to behaviors such as gambling.

The current experiment was done in Japanese quail, one of the few non-mammalian animals that have been widely used to study sexual behavior. This study represents the first attempt at performing *in vivo* microdialysis in the mPOA investigating extracellular dopamine release during male sexual behavior in any species other than rodents." Nelson wrote.

These birds also have another interesting characteristic which made them ideal candidates for the study. Male Japanese quail do not have external genitalia, so they do not display the typical symptoms of arousal of other male vertebrates.

"Because quail do not exhibit erections, the detection of a change in the release of dopamine in the mPOA cannot be attributed solely to a change in

arousal that might facilitate penile erections," Nelson wrote. "Rather, such changes can be more readily tied to sexual motivation and performance."

To perform their experiment, the researchers measured extracellular dopamine concentrations in the mPOA at six-minute intervals while the male quail was in the presence of a female, and after the female was removed. Liquid chromatography was used to measure the levels of dopamine in the samples.

They found that, in the males who eventually copulated with females, dopamine levels in the medial preoptic area were high throughout the encounter, even before copulation, and then fell after the female was removed. However, in the males that did not copulate with the females during their encounter, dopamine levels remained at baseline



COURTESY OF WWW.BIRDSKOREA.ORG
The behavior of quail in dopamine levels reveals its role in sexual arousal.

SPORTS

Hopkins defeats rivals to win conference title

BASEBALL, FROM B12

earned the first team along with senior pitcher Greg Harbeck and sophomore pitcher Sam Eagleson.

Besides advancing them farther into the tournament, Hopkins' victory against Washington on Friday also included graduate student Brian Youshak's 23rd hit of his career, making him the all-time hits leader at Hopkins. Youshak passed Hopkins Athletics Hall of Famer John Christ, who finished his career with 232 hits.

The Jays' bats were silent until the fifth inning against Washington's ace Shane Mattingly, when the home team scored three runs on their way to an 8-2 victory. As senior center fielder Dave Kahn said, "That's the thing about this team, it's not a matter of whether or not we're going to break through and score — it's a matter of when. Early in that game we were popping up a lot, and Mattingly was in a groove. By the fifth we settled down and got a big hit from Youshak to give us a three-run lead."

With one run already scored on a single by senior first baseman Chris Huisman to bring senior third baseman Lee Bolyard home, Youshak hit a single to score two, ending the inning on a failed play to steal second.

Hopkins scored again in the sixth, when junior left fielder Jesse Sikorski hit a double, combining with a single by Bejsiuk to score junior Sikorski. Sikorski earned Centennial Conference Player of the Week honors along with winning MVP of the Tournament for going 6-for-10 with seven RBI, eight runs scored, two home runs, a triple, and a double along with a whopping 1.500 slugging percentage.

Washington College scored their only two runs of the game in the top of the seventh to make the score 4-2.

Hopkins cracked the game open with four runs off five hits, including Youshak's third hit of the night. Washington substituted starting pitcher Mattingly for Kearney-Argow in the middle of the inning, at which time the wheels came completely off for

the Washington pitching staff. Hopkins had a hitting rally featuring two-RBI singles by John Swarr. The final score was 8-2.

Hopkins sophomore pitcher Alex Eliopoulos earned the win to advance to 7-0 on the season by allowing two runs on four hits in 6.1 innings pitched along with eight strikeouts and no walks.

Swarthmore had sneaked into their first Conference postseason but lost to Haverford on Friday.

The Blue Jays played the Fords on Saturday. The winner would wait for the Championship game on Sunday, while the loser would

show off his skills. The game was the culmination of an excellent season by the sophomore, who earned a starting position during off-season workouts. Eagleson was too busy earning second team all conference football honors during the intense fall baseball season to show off his skills.

Now in his collegiate rookie season as sophomore pitcher, Eagleson was named Pitcher of the Year in the Conference and currently holds a team best 2.07 ERA. Eagleson secured his tenth win of the season and has no losses.

"It feels great, I'm very excited

Kahn said.

Hopkins tied its single season record of 74 home runs with Swarr hitting the tying run in the fifth inning after being hit by a pitch, but the umpire decided not to award Swarr the base for lack of an attempt to avoid being hit.

Kahn began the championship game scoring by hitting a three-run moon shot to left field in the first. The rest of the game demonstrated the scoring prowess of the Jays.

Starting Jays pitcher Greg Harbeck earned the win by allowing two runs on six hits in seven innings along with three strikeouts.

This week Hopkins plays two non-conference opponents; unranked Mary Washington defeated Salisbury in their conference tournament to receive the automatic regional qualifier and will be a good test for the esteemed Hopkins team.

A double header is also scheduled for Saturday, May 8 at 17th-ranked Salisbury.

Hopkins will then move on to the Regionals which take place May 19-23. Since Hopkins is not one of the eight hosting sites, they will be traveling to an unknown location — Hopkins will likely compete within the Mid-Atlantic region which will be held in

Trenton.

The Jays will battle five other teams in a double elimination tournament.

If the Jays win, they will then advance to the NCAA Division III College World Series which features the winners of the eight regionals. The finals are held in Appleton, Wisconsin at Fox Cities Stadium from May 28 to June 1, meaning the seniors will miss their Commencement on May 27. The finals culminate in a best of three series between the two remaining teams to determine the national champion.

Hopkins was felled in the last game in 2008 to lose the national championship to Trinity College (Conn) 5-4.



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior Chris Huisman got on base four times on Saturday against Washington, scoring four runs.

have to play an extra game in Saturday afternoon's heat.

On Saturday at noon the Jays won 21-5, putting up a five spot in three separate innings.

Hopkins immediately began the scoring in the first inning and never let up, with homers coming from Sikorski, senior second baseman Stephen Bejsiuk, senior right fielder Matt Bernardi and senior catcher John Swarr.

Eagleson allowed four runs on seven hits in seven innings of work and six strikeouts in the winner's bracket matchup. "I wasn't the happiest I have ever been after that game, but to be honest, as long as we win it doesn't matter to me, we just want the ring," Eagleson said.

about the award, but the coolest thing [is] that Harbeck and Eliopoulos deserved the award just as much as me, and I think everyone feels the same way. That's why we are successful right now — a lot of guys can do big things," Eagleson said.

Haverford beat Swarthmore in order to play for the conference championship on Sunday.

Haverford went down against Hopkins in a similar fashion as the previous day, with the Jays winning 13-6.

"It was great to show off our talent in front of some pretty big crowds this weekend. Haverford is a pretty good team and we pretty much dominated them four times in the last two weeks,"

Hopkins was felled in the last game in 2008 to lose the national championship to Trinity College (Conn) 5-4.

How "transgressions" and tabloids have led to Tiger's downfall

As a sports fan, I always liked the underdog. Every unexpected win brings much more utility to the fanbase than it does for a first-place team.

Maybe my love for the underdog emerged from my growing up watching the Mets and Jets fail most of the time — and triumph, on rarer occasions. With that being said, I was never a big fan of Tiger Woods.

Tiger Woods has been playing golf as long as I can remember, and he has always dominated his opponents. He won 14 major championships from 1997 to 2008, along with a plethora of wins in other PGA Tournaments.

Superstar athletes quickly garner product endorsements, and Woods was no stranger to that. He was featured in ads ranging from Gatorade to Wheaties to Gilette to Buick to Tag Heuer. In 2009, Woods became the first athlete to make over one billion dollars, surpassing everyone.

Woods also got married to Swedish bombshell Elin Nordegren earlier in the decade. The man formerly known as Eldrick could not be stopped.

Then, last Thanksgiving, all of a sudden, the wheels fell off the

Buick Rendezvous. Tiger got into a highly-publicized car accident (in an Escalade), and soon after rumors of extra-marital affairs surfaced.

Tabloids, in their cantankerous fashion, tore at Woods incessantly, though the facts were cloudy.

Many women publicly came forward to claim to have been mistresses of Woods. Eventually, Tiger came clean, admitting to "transgressions," a clever word probably conceived by his media rep to soften the harsh blow of a terrible reality. Tiger subsequently took a break from professional golf, while losing almost all of his product endorsement spots.

Tiger made his return to professional golf about a month ago at the 2010 Masters, seeking to thrust himself back into the golfing spotlight. His return resulted in a fourth-place finish — not too bad, but not up to par he has set for himself.

Then, this past weekend, Tiger showed up at the Quail Hollow Championship, a minor golf tournament which netted the first-place winner a meager \$1.2 million. Woods completely choked, scoring a 153, his career-worst for 36-holes. He missed the cut.

The truth is out: Tiger Woods sucks at golf now. In a popular viral video captured from last month's Masters, Tiger himself was caught saying how much he sucked. So now, Tiger sucks at the sport he mastered.

Not only that, but he is taking more flak than a plane that fought in the Battle of Midway. A man in Colorado was even recently charged for relabeling bottles of Gatorade in a supermarket with a picture of Tiger and his wife and the word "unfaithful."

There is no doubt that Tiger Woods is responsible for all of his problems. Committing adultery is not only wrong, but if discovered, it is death to one's positive public image. Tiger was playing Russian roulette the first day he decided to embark on his extramarital sexual escapades, and he finally shot himself.

The issue that bugs me the most about this whole incident is the amount of press it is getting. Tiger Woods is unfairly being talked about by the sports press continuously, having his troubles highlighted around the clock.

It was obvious that his poor performance at Quail Hollow was not due to some lapse in his golf-playing abilities, but due to his mental instability. Being dogged by the tabloids, disparaged by the sports press and cut off from former glory must have a profound negative impact on one's psyche.

Tiger is also being unfairly singled out as if he were the only adulterer in the world. It would not surprise me if reports surfaced concerning other professional golfers committing adultery.

This incident reminds me of the steroid scandal that rocked Major League Baseball. Barry Bonds was the one singled out as the main juicer in baseball, harangued at every stadium outside of AT&T Park. Bonds played very well in 2007, his last contract year with the Giants, but never made it to a team in 2008 or after. No team wanted the "media distraction" or "clubhouse cancer."

Even after the Mitchell Report and numerous other PED allegations have arisen, and many players were caught using PEDs, Bonds remained out of baseball. Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez are still playing baseball. Heck, Gregg Zaun and Brendan Donnelly are still playing as well. Bonds was damaged by the press beyond repair, despite having still having a boatload of homers and RBIs left in the tank.

The future remains uncertain for Tiger Woods. It is still possible that he could mentally gather himself and reclaim his throne as the king of professional golf.

And it is possible that he will burn out and retire as a disgraced athletic figure. In any case, I just hope everyone stops talking about Tiger so much. Just let the man play golf — the distractions are only exacerbating an already sour tale.

W. TENNIS, FROM B12

day without losing a single set to the Fords. Only two matches from singles play would be finished and counted towards the final score, as the Jays' 5-0 advantage after two singles wins was sufficient to decide the match's overall outcome.

One match saw Candace Wu defeat Katie Drooyan 6-1, 6-1, while in the other match, Ellen Berlinghof downed Sarah Gibson 6-0, 6-2. The unfinished matches featured Nandita Krishnan, Anita Bhamidipati, sophomore Mallory Willenborg and freshman Ariel Several for the Jays.

This win over Haverford set up a Sunday match against the Swarthmore Garnet, which the Jays had previously faced in the Centennial Conference Tournament final in 2007 and 2008, with the Jays prevailing in both cases. The Jays also met the Garnet in the 2010 regular season, winning 8-1 on Swarthmore's home court.

The 12-5 Garnet entered the match nationally unranked, but ranked number nine regionally. Swarthmore would not fare much better than Haverford, as Hopkins continued to show its Centennial Conference supremacy, again winning 5-0. Doubles play saw another dominant performance by the Jays, losing only five sets between three matches.

One match saw Anita Bhamidipati and Carolyn Warren defeat freshman Emily Rosenblum and senior Rachel Wallwork handily by an 8-2 score. The day's second doubles match pitted Hopkins' Courtney Boger and Nandita Krishnan against Swarthmore's junior Luann Cignavitch and freshman Kelsey Johnson, with Boger and Krishnan winning 8-0. Finally, Ellen Berlinghof and Candace Wu beat Garnet sophomore Rosie DuBrin and junior Alexis Hickman 8-3, to close out doubles play.

Singles play would not be any kinder to the Garnet, as the Jays would cruise, losing only one set among the six matches played. Again, the Jays would win the first to singles matches to finish, leading to four unfinished matches.

W. track overwhelms the conference teams

TRACK, FROM B12

last event, the 4x400 relay.

Needing no better than an eighth-place finish to secure the conference title, the team of freshman Amelia Vallenilla, sophomore Steph Chung, freshman Leah Sibener and junior Anita Miklinen came through in the clutch, placing sixth with a time of 4:03.

"After grabbing the lead Friday night, we really wanted to come out strong Saturday in the Steeplechase and add to the lead. Our goal was to take the top three spots, and we stuck to the game plan and we all ran really smart races," said Furlong. "Going into the 5k on Sunday afternoon, we knew we had to give everything we had left in order to keep the lead. Laura [Paulsen] had an amazing finish to take first, and Liz [Provost] had an awesome race with a huge PR."

Senior star Laura Paulsen was not only the team's best performer, but also the entire meet's, as she was named Outstanding Track Performer after winning three individual titles over the course of the weekend in the 1,500, 10,000 and 5,000. Her time of 4:38.11 in the 1,500 meter met with NCAA Provisional qualifying standards.

Her victory in that event earned 10 team points, but also vital were fourth, fifth and eighth place finishes by Provost, Furlong and Mary O'Grady, respectively. In total, Hopkins walked away with 20 points from the event.

Paulsen credits her coach for much of the team's success. Van Allen suggested all of his runners state their goals for the conference tournament on the final day of practice. Paulsen took this suggestion to heart, as did her teammates. "I think [that last practice] really helped focus on how we could do our part to make this [championship] happen," Paulsen said.

And when the women's track and field team upset Haverford, Paulsen said, "We were all so excited and couldn't believe it!"

Also critical to the team victory was Vallenilla, who put together thrilling runs in the 100 and 200-meter dashes. Seeded 14th in the 100, the freshman finished in 12.78, squeezing past Haverford's Christina Neilson for first place. Vallenilla finished second in the 200, again edged out Neilson in the 200, who was the defending national champion in the event.

The Blue Jays gained 13 points from the shotput, where Alana Merkow finished second and senior co-captain Krystina Laukic finished fourth. Cecilia Furlong and Walker teaming with senior Jonathan Walker to finish in 43.54, good for fourth place.

Outside of the relays, Ryan Lino finished third in the shotput, while Matt Stankiewicz finished third in the high jump. Matt Trachtenberg's first place finish in the pole vault earned the Jays ten points. Freshmen Kurt Scanameo and Kevin Keenan tied for sixth place in the pole vault, earning Hopkins five more points in the event.

Paulsen is excited to compete at nationals in Ohio. "I have some time to recover and get in some more workouts," said Paulsen, "I'm only going to be running the 5k though so I don't have to miss graduation."

Looking back on her career, especially her fantastic senior year, Paulsen said, "I couldn't have imagined a better ending to my running career here at Hopkins. I really wanted us to win conferences . . . it's hard to put into words how happy and proud of the team I am."

The track and field athletes still have a few chances to qualify for the NCAA Championships, including a meet today (Thursday) at the University of Maryland and a meet next Monday at Swarthmore.

seen a year that did not end with a conference title for the Jays.

Nandita Krishnan attributed the team's success to the leadership of the seniors.

"Our captains Anita Bhamidipati and Ellen Berlinghof have done a tremendous job in winning their fourth straight Centennial Conference Championships, a feat which is going to be very hard for us to repeat," Krishnan said. Krishnan also stressed the importance of the team's collective spirit, praising the team's focus and claiming the title was "truly a team effort."

This also ties the Jays for second place in conference history for a championship streak, as Franklin and Marshall also won four consecutive titles from 1997-2000. A win in 2011 would tie Hopkins with Franklin and Marshall and Swarthmore for the record, as both schools have previously won five titles in a row.

The win against Swarthmore brings the Lady Jays to 15-8 on the season, while the Garnet fall to 12-6. Hopkins is also now 3-1 against Swarthmore in Centennial Conference tournament play, including 3-0 in championship matches. The title also secures the Jays an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament, which will officially announce its bracket on May 10, when the Jays will find out their next opponent.

This title marks the fourth consecutive year that the Blue Jays have been champions of the Centennial Conference. This year's seniors, including Berlinghof, Bhamidipati, Dory Giannos and Amanda Schubert have never



COURTESY OF WWW.BABBLE.COM

Tiger Woods hopes to return to his golf supremacy.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
GREG HARBECK — BASEBALL

Harbeck breezes through centennial rivals

By BRETT SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

Senior southpaw Greg Harbeck has been a part of four conference championships on the baseball team during his time at Hopkins.

Last weekend, he helped assure his team that they would win every championship during his tenure. Harbeck was the winning pitcher in the Conference Championship game against Haverford, helping the team clinch its fourth straight Conference title and, in doing so, the number one seed in Division Three baseball.

The Blue Jays clinched a spot in the NCAA tournament and the Centennial Championship with a 13-6 win over Haverford on Sunday. The championship win extended the team's win streak to 30 games on the season. Hopkins is 37-3 on the season, and finished the regular season undefeated against centennial opponents (20-0).

Much of the team's success in the championship game can be attributed to Harbeck, Hopkins' starting pitcher on the day. The senior earned the win for the Jays by allowing only two runs on six hits in seven innings of work. He also struck out three batters in the process.

Harbeck believes much of the team's successful work ethic was evident long before the regular season even began. He believes the team's attitude and intensity in pre-season workouts has lead to the team's current success.

The pre-season fall ball and winter workouts, engineered by our strength and conditioning

(ABC) poll and D3baseball.com poll (they've held the top spot in the latter poll for the past three weeks). The Jays last held the No. 1 spot in 2004.

Harbeck believes that all the hard work has paid off so far this season, and the team is well deserving of their ranking in his senior season.

"We work so hard and put so much into this season that to have

and other sports in his free time.

"Despite playing over 50 games in two and a half months, our baseball team finds time to be socially active and enjoy our free time and nights off," Harbeck said. "My teammates and I have to deal with late night studying and few hours of sleep, but that's what we sign up for to win a national championship."

Harbeck has played baseball

feared battery combination in the centennial conference. The rest of the NCAA will soon find this out."

Both head coach Bob Babb and several of Harbeck's teammates have noticed his improvement from last year. "He seems to be stronger and is throwing with more velocity," coach Babb said. "He has always had good command and always attacks hitters. This year he is doing so with better stuff."

Senior outfielder Dave Kahn echoed many of the same sentiments as his coach, while talking about Harbeck.

"I think he's just been a lot more consistent this season. Part of that is that he was given his role from the start: to be one of our top starters," Kahn said. "In years past he would spot start and be a reliever. Now that he's been given the opportunity to be a starter he's run with it."

Harbeck attributes his success to his teammates and his coaches. He believes he has earned the respect of his head coach, and he looks up to several of his teammates.

"Coach Babb is a great coach to pitch for because once you earn his trust he has absolute faith in you. My improvement has also been a result of working with our pitching coach, Matt Righter, who, as a former professional baseball player, really knows what it takes to win," Harbeck said. "I also have a special bond with the best pitcher in [Division III] baseball Sam Eagleson, my personal catcher Joe Borelli and my fellow senior pitchers [Marco Simmons and Andrew Pevsner], who I've done almost everything with the past four years."

The team has several games left in the regular season and hopes for a very long playoff run. Coach Babb is very optimistic of his team's chances in the playoffs.

"Our goal is to complete the regular season with three more victories, capture a regional championship, and go to and win the Division III National Championship," he said.

Harbeck is sure to be at the forefront of any of the team's success in the regional championship and, hopefully, in the World Series.

"Like I said before, it is a dream come true — but [the seniors] almost expected this because of how much we put into this season," he said.



FILE PHOTO
Sophomore Candace Rossi helped facilitate scoring against OSU, with two assists.

W. lax finishes season, defeats Ohio Buckeyes

By ELIZABETH DUVALL
Staff Writer

Don't count out these Lady Jays. The historically competitive program avoided a sour ending to the 2010 season with two big wins.

The Hopkins women's lacrosse team boasts an all-time record of 341-213-4 (.614) and a 123-49 (.608) mark at Division I in their 35th season. Last week, the Hopkins Blue Jays ended a losing streak against ranked opponents by defeating the Penn State Nittany Lions.

And wrapping up the 2010 regular season and ALC play, our Lady Jays played the 17th-ranked Ohio State, defeating them 9-8 in an exciting and heated battle on Homewood Field.

The weather was anything but ideal for such a fierce competition, but the extreme heat and horrifying humidity didn't stop either team from showing their true colors and playing competitively, while maintaining sportsmanlike conduct in a symbolic game with a lot on the line.

The Hopkins upset victory secured them the 3 seed in next week's American Lacrosse Tournament while Ohio State moved down to the 5th seed.

The Lady Jays looked fresh and relaxed at the beginning of the game, securing a quick 2-0 lead as sophomore Colleen McCaffrey and senior Sam Schrum scored back to back over the first five minutes of action.

Off to a slow start, the Ohio State Buckeyes weren't going to give up that easily. Kelly Haggerty set a strong precedent in her visit to Homewood field using her athletic technical skills to score over the left shoulder of freshman goalie Colette Larash.

The ensuing battle had only just begun as the buckeyes scored another two goals, giving them a 3-2 lead with 12:42 left to play in the first half. Hopkins' Brooke Foussadier broke up the spree with a game-tying goal, but the Buckeyes quickly answered, stretching the Buckeyes lead to 5-3 at the 7:14 mark.

Coming out of the half, the Lady Jays returned with more momentum and energy than they initially had from the beginning of the match.

Colleen McCaffrey put in three in a row and the Jays took an 8-5 lead over the first 10:01 of the pe-

riod. Despite an honorable performance by the Buckeyes in an effort to regain the lead, the Jays defense stood their ground. Junior Brooke Lipinski earned defensive player of the week honors for her outstanding play.

With the score 8-6, Hopkins, the Jays would stretch the lead to three before OSU answered with a left-handed shot inside the 8-meter line to pull back within two, 9-7, at 12:21.

Tension continued to build and a goal by Buckeyes' Meghan Beaudrault brought fans to the edges of their seats.

With 21 seconds left, the Buckeyes regained possession, yet were unable to capitalize and the score remained 9-8 until the final whistle.

Hats off to sophomore Colleen McCaffrey, who finished with four goals and five points leading her team to victory.

Senior Abby Duggan recognized the moment her team has built heading into the post season.

"Colleen had a really great game against Ohio State, and we can expect a lot from her in the conference tournament and we have high expectations for the conference tournament," Duggan said.

Duggan went on to expound on the prowess of last week's News-Letter's AOTW, Colleen McCaffrey. "Colleen is a great girl and a great teammate and we are lucky to have such young talent on our team — she is a future leader in the making and has already shown her potential to be one of the greatest women's lacrosse player this school has yet to see," Duggan said.

McCaffrey's three free position goals were the most by a Jay since Mary Key scored three against Ohio State on March 12, 2006.

When asked about the playoff Duggan said, "I think that we have an excellent shot of doing very well. The ALC is one of the strongest conferences. I think we are going to have to work very hard, but we are finally ranked and we are going into the tournament with a better record than any team from Hopkins has ever had before."

Next up for Hopkins is the 2010 ALC Tournament hosted by Ohio State. Hopkins will face sixth-seeded Florida in the quarterfinals, with opening draw slated for 5:30 p.m. at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium.



FILE PHOTO
Senior Greg Harbeck started nine games thus far, compiling a 2.24 ERA and a 7.67 K/9.

it come into fruition is truly a dream come true," Harbeck said.

Off the field, Harbeck is an applied math and statistics major from Glen Ridge, N.J. Harbeck chose Hopkins for its mix of academics and athletics.

"I really think Hopkins has the perfect combination of academic and athletic excellence," he said. "The baseball program was very appealing, with its continued success — and the institution speaks for itself on an academic front."

Harbeck believes his greatest weakness feeds off the emotion of his greatest strength.

"I think my greatest strength is how much I genuinely care," he said. "My passion for pitching well to help us win drives me. My weakness may be that I get too emotionally involved and let a minor problem set me back more than it should."

Graduate student outfielder Brian Youshak believes that Harbeck has been a very important leader in the clubhouse and out on the hill.

"Greg has been a leader for us on the mound. Every time he steps on the field we expect a great performance," Youshak said. "Harbeck and his personal catcher, Joe Borelli, are the most

his entire life, and as far back as he can remember he has always been a pitcher. He looks up to Andy Pettitte of the New York Yankees, since they are both left-handed pitchers. Harbeck believes his greatest weakness feeds off the emotion of his greatest strength.

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junior Ryan Rauck did not lose a single game in beating Aaron Ellison and John Menzione at third.

At first, senior David Maldow and junior Andrew Wang took the third doubles match by beating the team of Adam Cranford and Kevin Papen by a score of 8-5.

The Jays only had to play two singles matches to ensure victory. To start the singles matches, freshman Andy Hersh quickly defeated Hendrick 6-1, 6-0, at fourth. Hendrick's win is his 19th of the season, tied for most on the team with Maldow.

Wang clinched the win at second with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Papen, his ninth straight win. The

remaining matches were halted with the match already decided.

Hopkins continued its domination on Sunday vs. Swarthmore. Same as the day before, Hopkins swept all three doubles matches to take a 3-0 lead.

Elgort and Rauck at the third position defeated Malik Mubeen and James Wielder to take a 1-0 lead, by a score of 8-4. Maldow and Wang made it 2-0, defeating Zak Kelm and Stephen Youngblood 9-7 at first.

To finish the trend, Barnaby and Blythe defeated Maxwell Bressman and Mark Wee at second by a score of 8-6.

Similar to Saturday, The Jays only had to play three singles matches to ensure the Centennial Conference championship.

Maldow dominated Youngblood 6-1, 6-2, at first to give JHU a 4-0 lead.

Elgort and Hersh won their matches simultaneously at third and fourth, respectively, to clinch the victory. Elgort defeated Wee, 6-4, 6-2, and Hersh won his match 6-3, 6-2 over Bressman.

The remaining matches were halted with the victory clinched.

With the wins, Hersh and Maldow lead the team with 20 wins each for the season. With his win, Hersh ties the freshman record for most singles wins, currently held by Wang and Blythe.

Maldow, the winningest player in program history, improves to 80 career wins.

With the Centennial Conference championship, Hopkins earns the conference's automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament and will find out on Monday,

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SPORTS

Paulsen leads track to first conference title

By TRISTAN MOHABIR
Staff Writer

In what turned out to be a fantastic weekend for Johns Hopkins track, the women's team won its first Centennial Conference Championship, while the men's team placed fifth overall.

Swarthmore College hosted the spring outdoor championship meet which took place from Friday to Sunday.

For the women, the outcome of the meet seemed to be all but a forgone conclusion, as powerhouse Haverford was the heavy favorite to claim its fifth straight outdoor title and tenth overall Centennial Conference track championship. The Blue Jays had missed their best shot at unseating the Fords in February at the indoor championships.

However, in a dramatic turn of events, the Jays roared out to a huge lead, only to see the Fords mount a late surge towards the title; when the dust settled, Hop-

kins emerged victorious, edging out Haverford 190-185 to win the first Centennial Conference championship trophy in school history.

underdog they were, but I kept telling them that if they all wanted it and they stuck to our plan, we could do this."



FILE PHOTO
The Hopkins women's track team poses with its first Centennial Conference trophy.

"I couldn't be more proud of every person on this team," said head coach Bobby Van Allen. "I don't think they knew what a big

"This conference championship was a complete team effort," said sophomore Cecelia Furlong (News-Letter sports staff writer).

"Everyone really had to step it up and basically outperform what they had been doing all season to even have a shot at winning, and the whole team came through and had amazing performances."

The event that clinched the win for the Blue Jays was the 5,000-meter run, the second to last event of the championship. Down by eight points going into the run, the trio of senior distance runners, Laura Paulsen, Liz Provost and Furlong, keyed off Haverford's defending conference cross-country champion, Emily Lipman.

Executing their game plan beautifully, the trio worked together to secure three of the top five spots, with Paulsen winning the event with a time of 17:58.30, Provost placing fourth (18:09.41) and Furlong following closely behind at fifth (18:09.73).

Hopkins gained 19 points, and with Lipman finishing seventh, the Jays clung to a 187-178 lead over the Fords going into the

SEE TRACK, PAGE B10

W. lax defeats Ohio State by one, advances to ALC



On Sunday, the Hopkins women's lacrosse team faced off against Ohio State. The last game of the regular season for the Lady Jays was going to be a challenge. The contest was a dogfight, with the Jays and Buckeyes changing leads throughout the game. Ohio State scored the final two goals of the game, but freshman Katie Duffey's 11th goal of the year proved to be the decisive goal, as Hopkins won 9-8. See page B10.

Baseball completes undefeated conference season, 38 wins

By AMY KLIVANS
Staff Writer

With a perfectly executed game-plan, Hopkins baseball is fulfilling its very own Manifest Destiny. So far this season the Blue Jays

have shattered records, obtained copious awards and achieved an imposing win streak.

This weekend was no exception to the norm of dominance, with an extraordinary display of talent by the Jays to win the Centennial

Conference Championships, completing the second undefeated season in Centennial History. The 2004 Hopkins squad was the last team to go undefeated in Conference play — that team was led by star pitcher Matt Righter, the current pitching coach.

Hopkins went 18-0 during the conference season to earn home field advantage but lost a coin toss and was forced to play as the visiting team on Saturday against Haverford.

With the conference title, the Jays receive an automatic bid to the NCAA regional tournament.

The Jays started this season with a pre-season ranking of 30th in the nation only to rise to the national favorite at No. 1, with only two out of 25 of the votes in favor of other teams. Their press release surely will boast admirable statistics including an impressive 37-3 record, undefeated in conference, and a 30-game win streak. Hopkins beat Washington

and Haverford twice to win the tournament in a succinct fashion.

Before the tournament began seven Hopkins baseball players were honored by the Centennial Conference. Senior Steven Bejsiuk earned second team honors. John Swarr was named first team catcher for the second year in a row.

Also in the outfield, Centerfield Dave Kahn was named player of the year, and junior left field Jesse Sikorski earned first team honors. Brian Youchak narrowly missed out on POTY but also

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE B10



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Blake Platt, Aaron Schwartz and Ryan Scherich have held opponents to below .200 avg.

INSIDE

Tiger Woods: End of an Era?

No professional athlete in recent times has had a larger fall from grace than Tiger Woods has. Jeff Zhu takes a look at the whole situation and shares his views on the matter. Page B10.

Athlete of the Week: Greg Harbeck

As a junior last year, pitcher Greg Harbeck played a spot starter role, pitching in relief often. This year, he was given a permanent spot on the rotation and has pitched like an ace. Page B11.

Women's Lacrosse: Buckeyes Dispatched

Ohio State had a long travel to Baltimore to take on the Hopkins women's lacrosse team. The Lady Jays showed the Buckeyes their brand of lacrosse and came out victorious. Page B11.

DID YOU KNOW?

Baltimore legend and hero Cal Ripken Jr. hits for the cycle in Arlington, Texas against the Texas Rangers. Ripken hit a solo HR in the ninth to complete the feat in his fifth at bat. He was the only Oriole with an extra base hit on the day. Brooks Robinson is the only other Oriole to have hit for the Cycle.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

M. Lacrosse vs. Loyola 12 p.m.

W. tennis takes home Cent. Conference title

By GERY BROWNHOLTZ
Staff Writer

The past weekend saw the Hopkins women's tennis team compete in the Centennial Conference Tournament. Down by eight points going into the run, the trio of senior distance runners, Laura Paulsen, Liz Provost and Furlong, keyed off Haverford's defending conference cross-country champion, Emily Lipman.

The event that clinched the win for the Blue Jays was the 5,000-meter run, the second to last event of the championship. Down by eight points going into the run, the trio of senior distance runners, Laura Paulsen, Liz Provost and Furlong, keyed off Haverford's defending conference cross-country champion, Emily Lipman.

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